

LG Socceroos v Brazil

OFFICIAL PROGRAM \$5

November 14

Stadium Australia,
Sydney

November 17

MCG, Melbourne

Samba sensation

Can Ronaldo
rise to the top
Down Under?



- Frank Farina:
in the hot seat

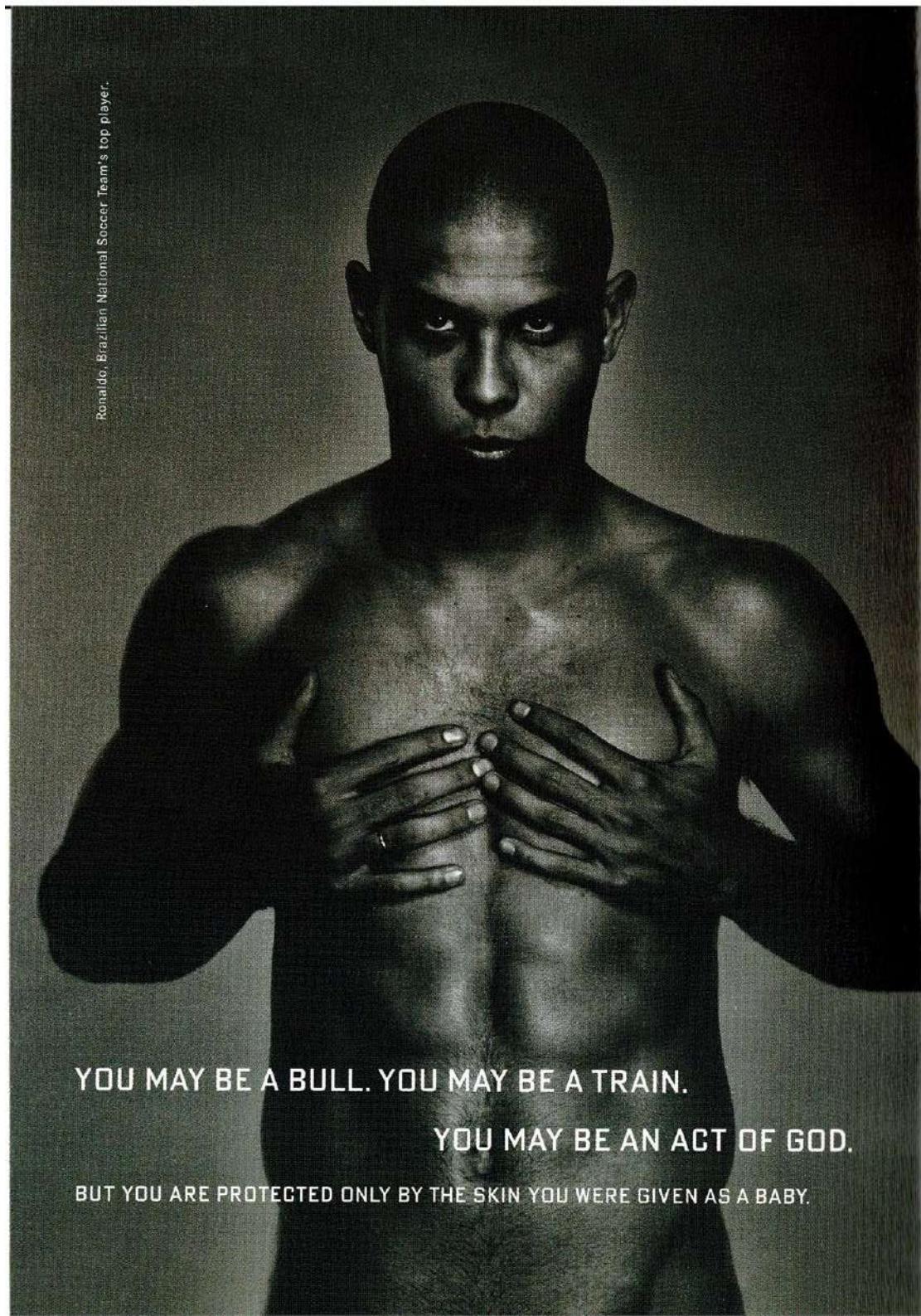
- Brazil & Australia
player profiles



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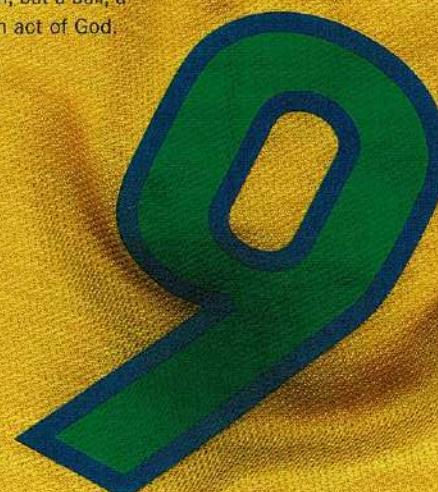
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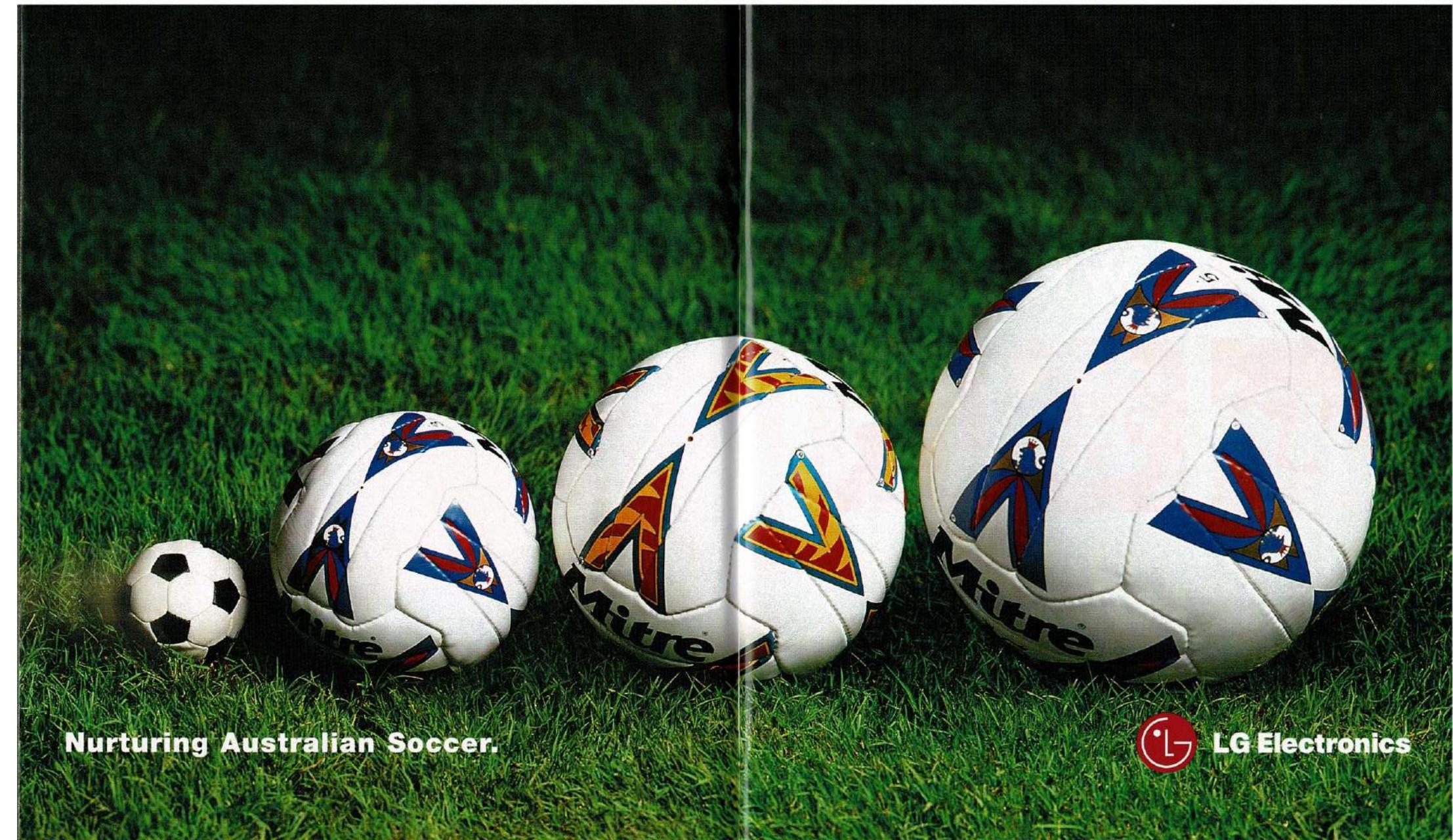


PERFORMANCE APPAREL

THE EVOLUTION OF SKIN

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Nurturing Australian Soccer.

For the first time in history, one company is providing Australian Soccer with the resources it needs for a healthy development at all levels of the game. From the Socceroos, Australia's premier national team, right through to thousands of young kids, even those just starting to play, LG Electronics will be giving its support, both on and off the field.

LG's sponsorship arrangement consists of the naming rights of the Socceroos, now called

the LG Socceroos, as well as extending to the other national teams including the Under 23 Australian Team, the Young Socceroos (under 20's) and the Joeys (under 17's).

In addition, LG's grass roots support of soccer will be giving more than 350,000 registered junior players a chance to fulfil their dreams in one of the most popular and fastest growing sports in Australia.

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 **LG SOCCEROOS**

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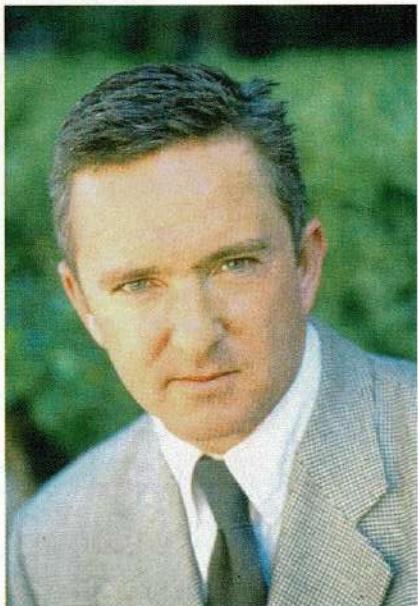
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What's happening in Australian soccer



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Welcome messages



ON BEHALF OF IMG IT GIVES ME great pleasure to welcome you all to witness our national soccer team, the LG Socceroos, as they take on the Brazilian National team. This year, IMG entered into a long-term commercial agreement with Soccer Australia which we are confident will enable the sport to prosper into the future.

We were delighted last month to announce that LG Electronics have agreed to sponsor the Socceroos for the next two years. I would like to express our sincere

thanks to Mr Christopher Kim, Managing Director, for LG's wonderful support.

In these two matches against Brazil, we will witness the LG Socceroos' first assignment under new coach Frank Farina in the first of many international soccer matches that IMG will stage in Australia in coming years.

I would like to thank Basil Scarsella, Chairman of Soccer Australia, and David Woolley, Chief Executive Officer, for their support in appointing IMG as their commercial partner. To Harold Anderson and the Seven Network, thank you for continuing to support Australian soccer.

A sincere thank you to all our major sponsors, in particular, Ian Todd, Vice-President Global Sports Marketing, Yumi Ozawa and David Tucker from Nike. I would also like to acknowledge the following companies and thank them for their support: Ansett, The Promotions Department, Duet Entertainment, Tourism Victoria, Tourism New South Wales, SOCOG Soccer Division, MCG, Stadium Australia, Crown Casino and Star City, and the IMG staff, in particular Greg Hooton, event director for the series.

I have no doubt that all soccer fans will enjoy these matches as we witness some of the world's greatest players in action.

Martin Jolly
Managing Director
IMG Australia and New Zealand



TIS WITH GREAT honor that the Brazil National Team comes to Australia for these two matches. Australia and the region are very much on the map of world sport as it is in this

region that the next Olympic Games and the World Cup 2002 will be played.

As four-time winners of the World Cup, we are proud to bring our team to play in front of an audience eager to discover and enjoy the most popular of all sports.

I sincerely hope these matches will further strengthen Australian football as well as the relationship between our two countries.

Ricardo Terra Teixeira
President
Confederacao Brasileira de Futebol



ON BEHALF OF all Australian soccer supporters, I welcome the Brazilian team to our shores for the first time since 1988. The two-game series between Australia

and Brazil heralds the start of a new era for our code, with our new partners LG Electronics on board and the recently-appointed Frank Farina in charge of his first games as national coach.

LG Electronics have shown tremendous confidence in Australian soccer and for the LG Socceroos to play against Brazil is a fitting way to commence our partnership.

Finally, I would like to congratulate IMG for their pivotal role in organising the two games against Brazil, and thank the public for their continued support of the LG Socceroos.

Basil Scarsella
Chairman
Soccer Australia



ON BEHALF of LG Electronics, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this landmark occasion, with the first match being played by the newly-named LG Socceroos.

We are greatly honored to be associated with the LG Socceroos, and Australian soccer in general.

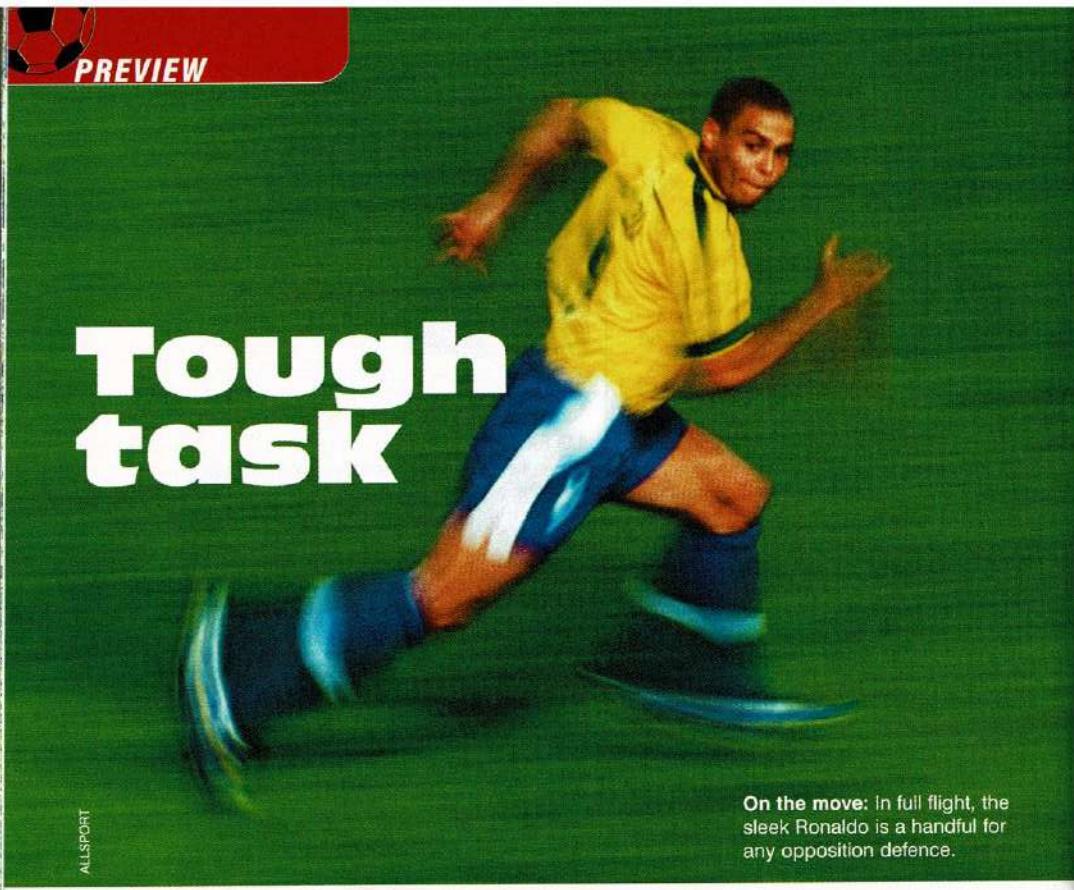
We view our sponsorship of Australian soccer as a partnership rather than a naming arrangement. It is a continuation of our company's global relationship with sports: the World Cup Cricket, World Cup Soccer, LG Cup in Europe and locally in our partnership with the

AFL LG Melbourne Demons.

Like soccer, LG is growing in Australia. As a global manufacturer of electronic products, LG is leading the way in producing product innovations that are first-class and will set the standard in the digital era of the new millennium.

We have made a commitment to supporting the growth of soccer in Australia through the Grass Roots programme, which reaches more than half a million young soccer players nationally. We believe that the future of soccer in Australia is dependent upon our youth, and with LG's backing, we can ensure the kids of today become tomorrow's LG Socceroos.

Christopher Kim
Managing Director
LG Electronics Australia



Tough task

ALLSPORT

Can a strong LG Socceroos outfit team up to knock off one of the most exciting soccer sides in the world? Sydney and Melbourne are set to find out. By **Kit Galer**

AUSTRALIA V BRAZIL — IT IS, quite simply, the stuff of which soccer dreams are made. The greatest national team in the history of the game, four-times winners of the World Cup, finalists in France last year, here in our own backyard to take on the LG Socceroos in Sydney and Melbourne. And meeting a Socceroos team now with



australia v brazil

enough experience at both international and top club level to ensure Australia is not just running out in either match purely to make up the numbers.

The last time the two sides met, the Brazilians dished out a 6-0 drubbing in the Confederations Cup final in Riyadh in 1997, courtesy of hat-tricks by Romario and Ronaldo. But Australia played most of that match with only 10 men after striker Mark Viduka was sent off.

The teams had met earlier in the

competition when the Socceroos held out under a near-constant bombardment to emerge with a 0-0 draw. Brazil coach Mario Zagallo was heard to remark after that clash that Australia did not have a serious shot the entire match, which said much for the Socceroos' ability to soak up pressure for 90 minutes if nothing else. Zagallo, by the way, has since been shown the door.

Don't for a moment suppose that just because the matches at Stadium Australia and the MCG are officially labeled "friendlies" that our distinguished visitors will be taking it easy. Brazil isn't like that. With the Olympics coming up next year, the 2002 World Cup two years later,

fierce competition for places — current coach Wanderley Luxemburgo has tried nearly 40 players so far this year — and some 150 million fans back home who do not expect their national team to be beaten by anyone, Brazil cannot afford to relax in any match.

This is a major event for Australian soccer. And an Aussie win is always possible. Then there might be some awkward parliamentary questions tabled back home in Brasilia ...



Keys: Custodian Mark Bosnich (right) and goalsneak Mark Viduka (left) are vital to Australia's chances at opposite ends of the field.

All Brazilian defeats are analysed in depth back home. The people of Brazil take immense pride in their national side, and they do not take defeat, rare as it is, at all kindly.

When Norway beat Brazil 4-1, admittedly in icy Oslo conditions which did the South Americans few favors, there was talk of questions being asked in the Brazilian parliament. When France beat Brazil 3-0 in the 1998 World Cup final, days of national mourning followed.



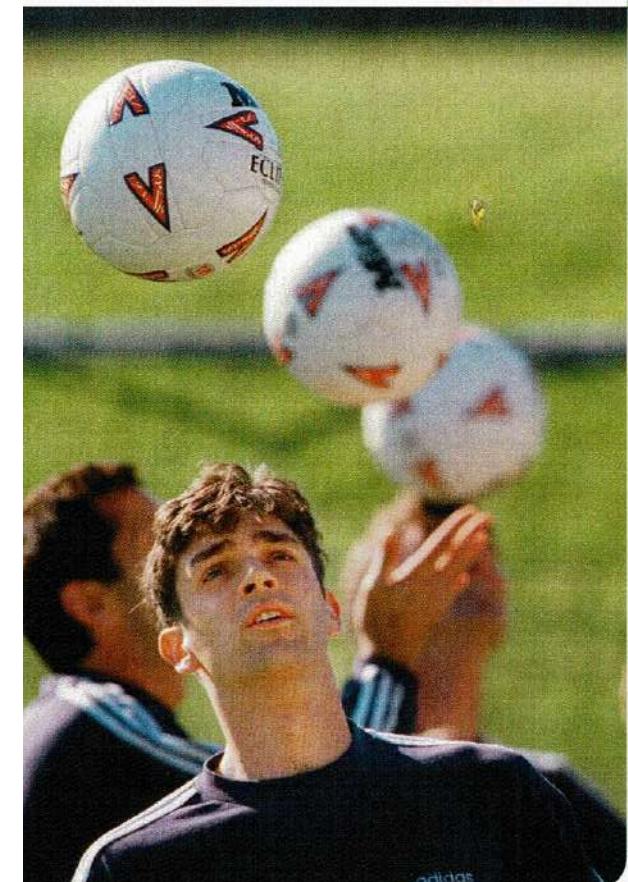
Important ingredients: Denilson (above) is a key to Brazil's attack, while Socceroo veteran Ned Zelic (left) remains a vital link man for the home side.

All Brazilian defeats are analysed in depth back home. The people of Brazil take immense pride in their national side, and they do not take defeat, rare as it is, at all kindly.

The exact make-up of the Brazilian side we see in Australia will be subject to the availability of the players Luxemburgo and his coaching staff wants to use in the two games and their fitness.

At time of press, it appeared the Brazilian attack would be led by Inter Milan superstar Ronaldo and new exciting young guns Denilson, Ronaldinho and Alex. Whoever supports that potent trio will be doing it the Brazilian way — and that guarantees excitement and explosive action.

The Brazilians like to build their play patiently from the back, stroking the ball about to try and create space, a task made easier by their natural ball skills. They play to the rhythm of the samba, and you can bet your life that somewhere in the



At the controls: New Socceroos coach Frank Farina (at left) and his assistant Graham Arnold make their national coaching debuts in the Australian/Brazil series.

vast crowds that will watch them in both matches here there will be a group in Brazilian shirts with samba drums, beating away as the team presses forward.

Farina will have one of the strongest Socceroos squads available to choose from since those heady days of World Cup qualifying — the days when Terry Venables was going to lead the team to glory, the World Cup finals were about to have some relevance to Australians again at last, and the Socceroos were 2-0 up against Iran at the MCG on November 29, 1997 with 85,000 cheering them on and 20 minutes to go ...

Despite the well-documented problems he has had since moving from Aston Villa to Manchester United, first-choice Aussie goalkeeper Mark Bosnich remains one of the world's top custodians.

Striker Mark Viduka is making a name for himself with a star-studded Glasgow Celtic line-up in Scotland, and then there's the Wolverhampton Wanderers duo of Steve Corica and Kevin Muscat, Manchester City's Danny Tiatto, Birmingham City's Stan Lazaridis, veteran link-man Ned Zelic, and a host more.

Australia will parade most of its big guns in this series, and this is a marvellous occasion for all of them — and a major event for Australian soccer. And, of course, a win in Sydney or Melbourne is always possible. Then there might be some more awkward parliamentary questions tabled back home in Brasilia ... ⚽

Kit Galer writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.

Schedule of events

LG Socceroos v Brazil

SYDNEY — STADIUM AUSTRALIA
November 14

1.30pm	Pre-game entertainment begins
2.22pm	Starting line-ups announced and warm-up
2.54pm	Teams enter arena
2.59pm	Singing of National Anthems
3.07pm	Kick-off: LG Socceroos v Brazil
3.52pm	Half-time
4.07pm	Second half commences
4.52pm	Full time

MELBOURNE — MCG

November 17

6.30pm	Pre-game entertainment begins
7.22pm	Starting line-ups announced and warm-up
7.54pm	Teams enter arena
7.59pm	Singing of National Anthems
8.07pm	Kick-off: LG Socceroos v Brazil
8.52pm	Half-time
9.07pm	Second half commences
9.52pm	Full time

MATCH OFFICIALS — SYDNEY

Referee: Brett Hugo
Assistant referees: John Bowdler/Alex Spiroski
Reserve referee: Matthew Breeze
Inspector: Roger Lamb

MATCH OFFICIALS — MELBOURNE

Referee: Eddie Lennie
Assistant referees: Carlo Graser/Patrick McCaffery
Reserve referee: Gerry Connolly
Inspector: Doug Rennie



In the last meeting between the Socceroos and Brazil, the South American kings gave the young up-and-comers from Australia a soccer lesson they still haven't forgotten.

By Doug Booth

A rude awakening

DECEMBER 22, 1997, HAS GONE down in Socceroo history as the day Australia tried to win a place in the big league of world soccer — and got a lesson in finishing for its trouble.

The occasion was the Confederations Cup final in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, between then-world champion Brazil and Australia. No-one expected the Socceroos to get past first base in the tournament, let alone meet the mighty Kings of Samba soccer in the final.

But that's how the tournament of the champions of each of FIFA's confederations panned out, with the Socceroos coping a 6-0 mauling at the hands of the irrepressible, unstoppable Brazilians in the one-sided decider.

For the Socceroos, just reaching the final was an amazing achievement. What made it even more remarkable was the threat of strike action over a pay dispute which hung over Australia's preparations for the tournament. The dispute prompted then-Soccer Australia chairman David

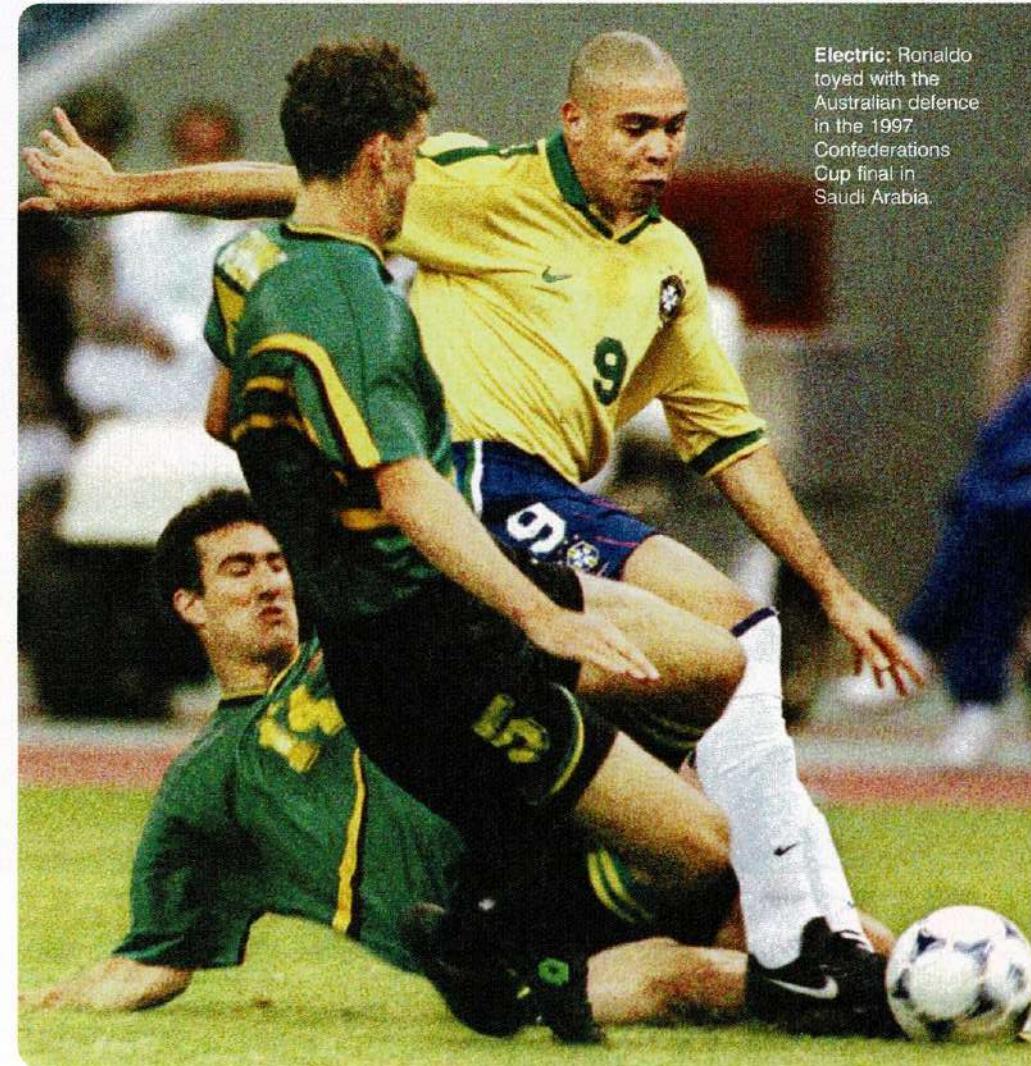
Hill to fly to Saudi Arabia to try to sort out the problem.

After failing to qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals in France — who can forget that emotion-charged match against Iran at the MCG just a month before? — Terry Venables and his men had done an amazing job just to get to the Confederations Cup final.

But the sending-off of striker Mark Viduka for a rash challenge on Cafu in the 24th minute put the Socceroos on the back foot. As Venables, with typical Cockney gift of the gab, later said: "Once he was sent off, it was all over. You might as well go home. You can do with 12 men against Brazil — with 10, the game's finished."

Hat-tricks to the two deadly Rs — Romario and Ronaldo — inflicted Australia's heaviest soccer defeat in 42 years. Six months later, Croatia would go one better, or worse from an Australian perspective, with a 7-0 drubbing of the Socceroos in Zagreb.

Electric: Ronaldo toyed with the Australian defence in the 1997 Confederations Cup final in Saudi Arabia.



The December day in Riyadh did produce one positive for Australian soccer. Goalkeeper Mark Bosnich proved to the world's soccer fans, if they did not know already, that he is a class custodian. But there was nothing he could do to prevent Brazil lifting the gold-encrusted trophy named after Saudi Arabia's Islamic ruler, King Fahd.

Bosnich made five outstanding saves in the opening 11 minutes as the Brazilians desperately sought revenge for what the media back home had described as the "humiliating 0-0 draw" with the Socceroos in their opening group game.

One was a double save when he blocked Romario's attempt with his feet and then dived to deprive Juninho.



Triple-threat: Like teammate Ronaldo, Romario snared a hat-trick of goals.

Once (Viduka) was sent off, it was all over. You might as well go home. You can do with 12 men against Brazil — with 10, the game's finished. — Former Socceroos coach Terry Venables

However, he had no hope of preventing Ronaldo from opening the scoring on 15 minutes when the striker was set up by Denilson.

After Viduka's premature exit, the Brazilians quickly hit top gear, once again inspired by Ronaldo's speed. He nipped in behind defender Steve Horvat and flicked the ball across the face of goal and inside

the far post with the outside of his right foot for a 2-0 Brazil lead.

The Brazilians had a penalty claim turned down soon afterwards but quickly made up for it by slamming home their third before half-time. Poor marking allowed Romario to chest Cafu's long cross and send the ball home from close range.



Under seige: Aussie 'keeper Mark Bosnich was barraged by wave after wave of Brazilian attackers.

Romario repeated the dose early in the second half, chesting down Ronaldo's header and thumping the ball into the net. Ronaldo completed his hat-trick with another touch of brilliance, chesting down Cafu's defence-splitting through ball before ramming the ball home on the run, and Romario's hat-trick came from the penalty spot, thanks to a jinking run by Ronaldo, who was brought down by Bosnich.

Romario took just two steps before coolly placing his spot kick to Bosnich's left for his seventh goal of the tournament.

The Socceroos had been well and truly flogged by a typical Brazilian side which knew only one way to play — scoring goals and entertaining at the same time.

Not surprisingly, Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo was smiling.

Socceroos defender Steve Horvat admitted on his return to Australia that the Brazilians were in a league of their own.

"We did our best all game to continue scoring goals. We considered this as the first match of the World Cup finals in France," he said afterwards.

"I'm so happy today because I found out my team will be able to realise my dreams and

win the World Cup."

History shows that Zagallo was close to being accurate but, unlike his star strikers, not spot on.

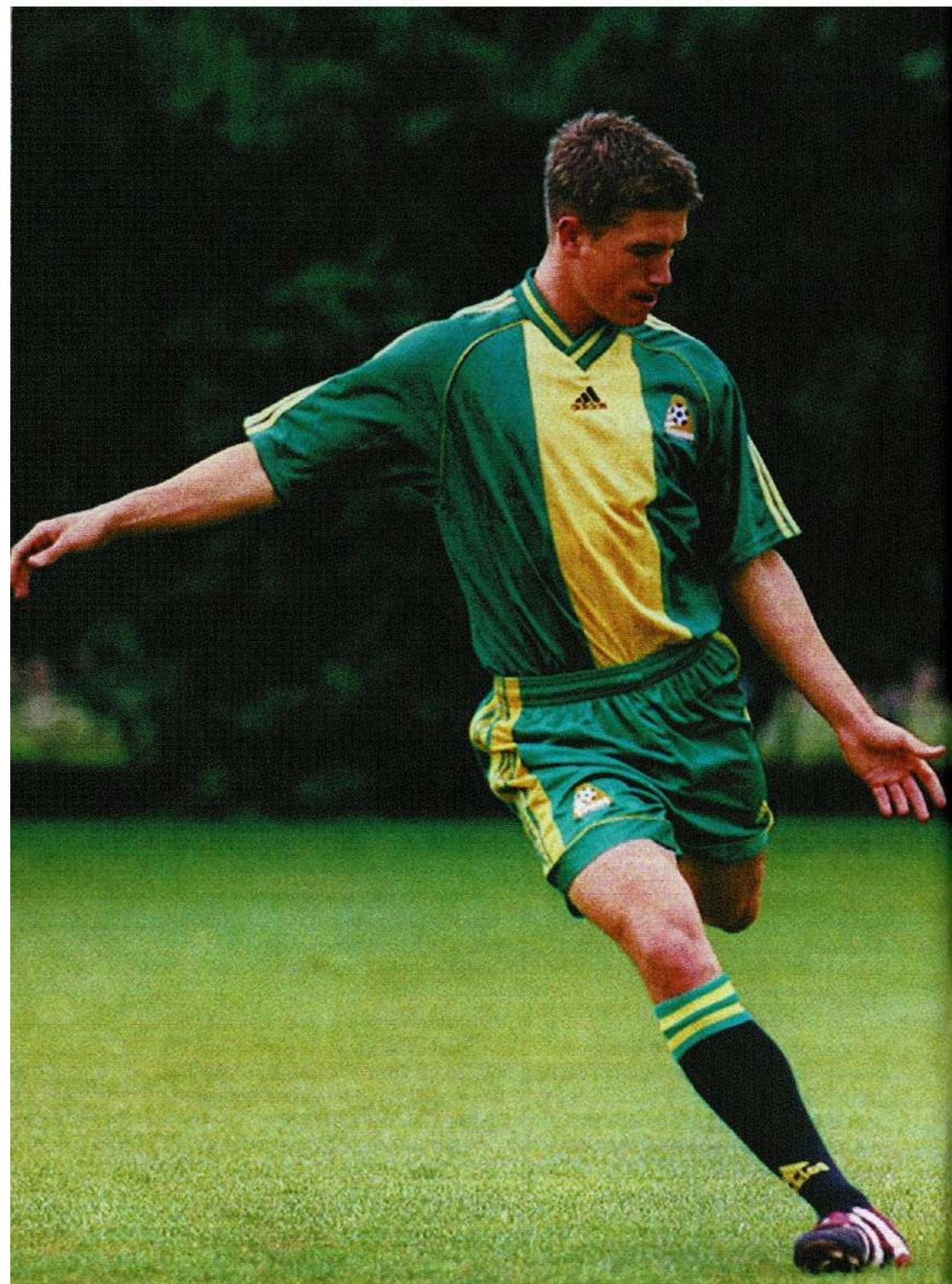
The tournament was an important one for the development of Australian soccer, despite the lop-sided final. The early-round draw with Brazil and victories over Mexico and Uruguay showed that the Socceroos had risen to new heights.

While the pain was eased by the runners-up prize of just over \$2 million, from which each Socceroo pocketed a Christmas bonus of \$27,000, Horvat admitted on his return home that the Brazilians were in a league of their own.

"Maybe five games in 10 days took its toll (on us). Everyone was up for the final. We were all excited — it was our big day," he said.

"They definitely wanted to pay us back after the 0-0 draw, and unfortunately they did!"

Doug Booth writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.



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Coming together

While they're vastly different structures, the two stadiums set to host the Socceroos and Brazil in November will team up next year to bring Olympic soccer to the world.

By **Doug Booth**

ONE IS OVAL-SHAPED, THE OTHER rectangular. One has been the home to major sporting events for most of the 20th century.

The other has placed its profile firmly on the sporting map in the six months since it was officially opened.

Different as they are, both the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) and Stadium Australia will know what it is to host one of the great events in sport — the Olympic Games — in less than a year's time.

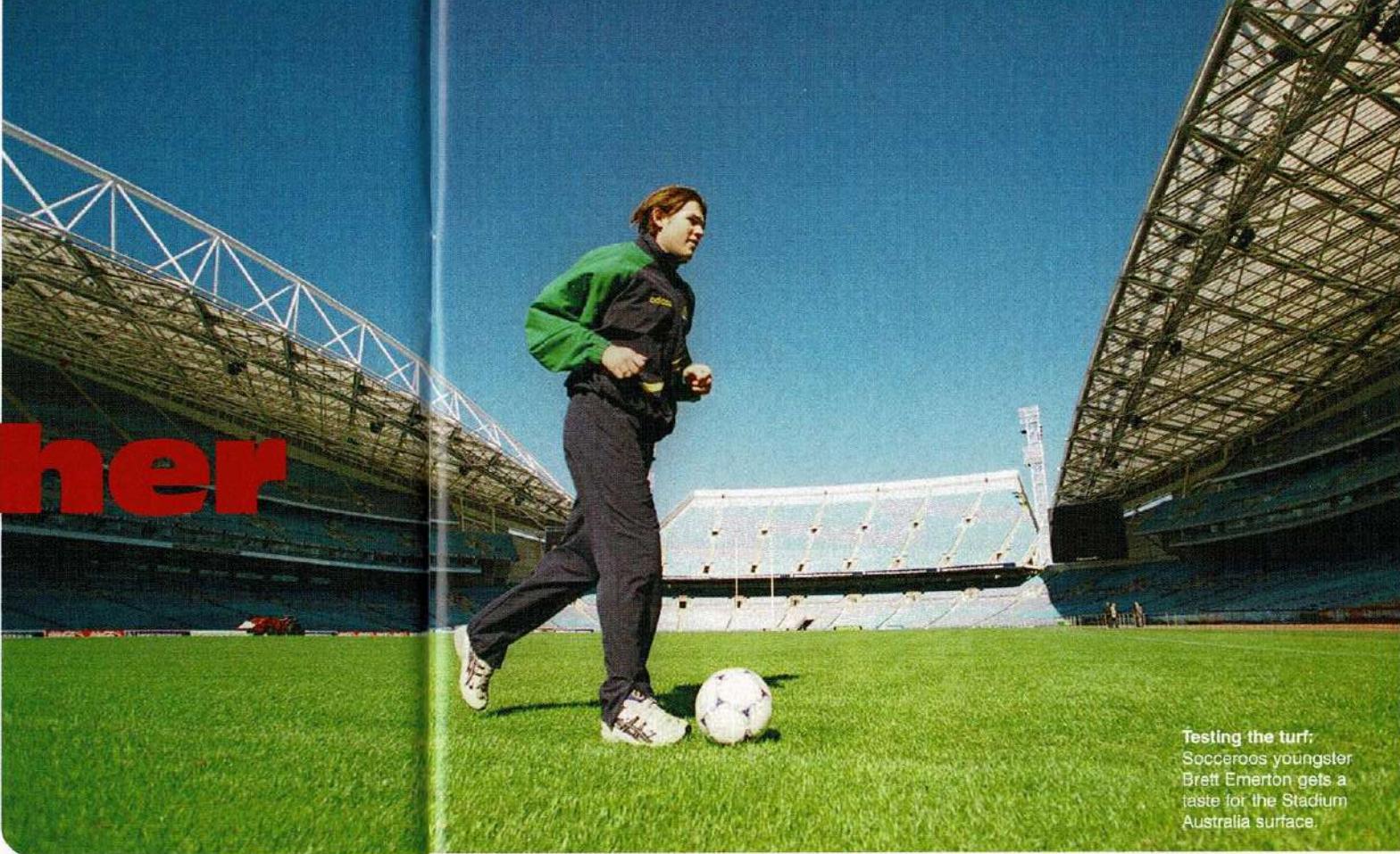
Just as the MCG hosted the 1956 Olympic Games opening ceremony, Stadium Australia at Homebush Bay will also earn the right to fly the flag with five rings for 16 days from September 15 next year.

Olympic soccer will be played at both venues. The MCG will host 12 matches,

including four double-header events, a quarter-final and a semi-final. And, for the first time in Olympic history, the final of the soccer (or football) competition will be played at the host city's main stadium where the opening and closing ceremonies will be held.

The traditional rivalry between Australia's two major cities were buried as plans for a sharing of Olympic soccer were unveiled. Australia's International Olympic Committee member, Kevan Gosper, echoed the sentiments at the time of the announcement.

"I know when the year 2000 comes, all of Melbourne will have memories of



Testing the turf:
Socceroos youngster
Brett Emerton gets a
taste for the Stadium
Australia surface.

The two matches between the LG Socceroos and Brazil in November are important events in the countdown to the Olympics — and essential dress rehearsals for stadium organisers as they prepare for Sydney 2000.

1956 — and they will be so excited that they are actually involved," Gosper said.

The two matches between the LG Socceroos and Brazil in November are important events in the countdown to the Olympics — and essential dress rehearsals for stadium organisers as they prepare for Sydney 2000.

While those with Melbourne loyalties

may still lean towards the 'G' as the home of Australian sport, Stadium Australia is quickly catching up in sheer size alone. The \$615 million, 58m high structure is the biggest sporting and entertainment complex Australia has ever seen.

Stadium Australia will have been well and truly christened long before next September. Who will forget the euphoria



in March when the sell-out rugby league double-header made world headlines? And what about the massive crowds that attended the Wallabies/All Blacks Bledisloe Cup match and the NFL American Bowl between the San Diego Chargers and Denver Broncos in August? Then, of course, there was the official opening of the stadium on June 12, when the Socceroos

re-lived his childhood growing up in the Sydney suburb of Weatherill Park. The FIFA World Stars striker spent 11 years of his life in Sydney's west, and like Kewell, it was the opening of the stadium that, like a magnet, brought him back.

Constructing the 110,000 seat stadium was a monumental task. A total of 10,000 tonnes of reinforcing was used and more than 550,000 cubic metres of soil were

While those with Melbourne loyalties may still lean towards the 'G' as the home of Australian sport, Stadium Australia is quickly catching up in sheer size alone. The \$615 million, 58m high structure is the biggest sporting and entertainment complex Australia has ever seen.

tackled the FIFA World Stars.

That soccer match was an emotional occasion for two players from vastly different backgrounds who have significant links to Sydney. Sydney-born Socceroos star Harry Kewell played his first professional match in his home city since making the big-time with Leeds United in the English Premier League, and Italian superstar Christian Vieri

moved in developing the 16 hectare site. If you placed the seats in the stadium on top of each other, the stack would reach 70km high.

While the statistics are impressive, sporting venues are only remembered for how many people pass through the turnstiles. Stadium Australia can proudly boast it has passed its preparatory year with flying colors.



In many ways, the MCG and Stadium Australia are worlds apart. But in one significant area, they are identical — both pull in the crowds.

Whether it is Aussie Rules, cricket, rugby or soccer, the MCG is up there with the world's finest sporting venues such as Wembley in England, the Maracana in Brazil and Spain's Nou Camp.

Quite simply, the MCG has done the lot. It has shared in the glory of triumph, and witnessed the pain of stunning defeat.

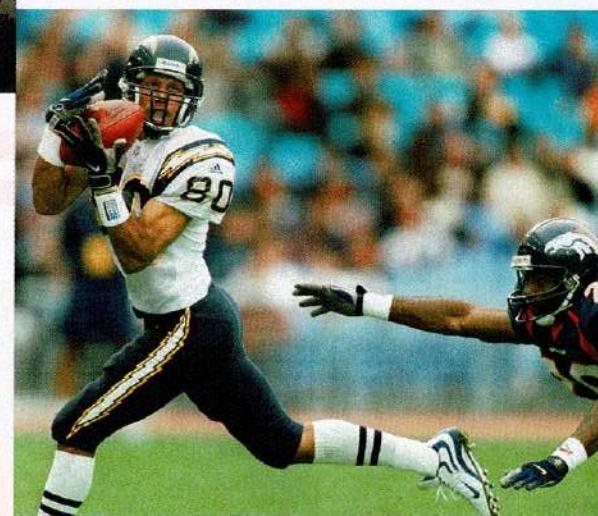
There have been few more emotional roller-coaster rides than on that fateful night almost two years ago when the Socceroos were poised to make only their second World Cup finals' appearance before they were dealt the cruellest of blows.

The 2-2 draw with Iran, which meant the Middle East country went through to France '98 on the away goals ruling, left most Aussies at the ground that night speechless.

From a financial point of view, the World Cup qualifier was a huge success. The match generated \$2.7 million in ticket sales and had a gross economic impact of \$35 million for Victoria.

After that match, event director Geoff Wood said that a major soccer event should be seriously considered at the MCG on an annual basis. In essence, that's what has happened with the mighty Manchester United playing the Socceroos in July and a top-notch Brazilian side lining up at the famous ground in November.

Similar stages: Like the MCG (opposite page), which has attracted a host of big sporting events like the Australia/Iran World Cup qualifier in 1998, Stadium Australia (left) has entertained a variety of sports such as American Football in its short history.



Unlike Stadium Australia to this point, the MCG's curators have had to contend with a variety of sporting codes such as Aussie Rules and cricket over the years. Pop concerts over the years have added to the difficulties in keeping the playing surface in pristine condition.

Certainly, the centre of the pitch came in for justified criticism from both Manchester United and Socceroo players in July, forcing ground staff to promise a quality pitch for next September's Olympic matches.

As we head into the new millennium, Australians can proudly hold their heads high in the knowledge that their country has two of the world's finest sporting arenas — two that will be the focus of the footballing world come September next year. 

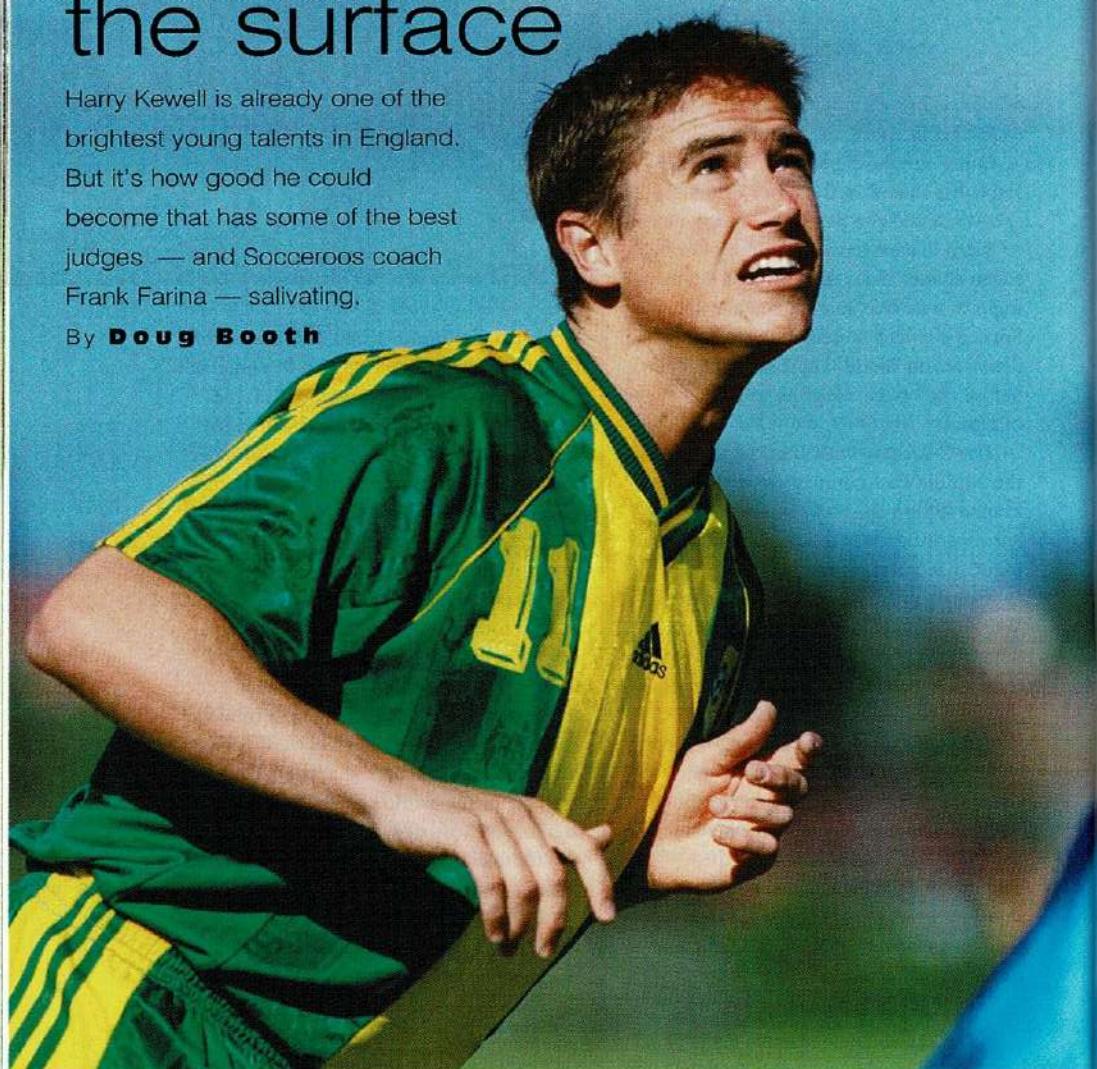
Doug Booth writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.



Scratching the surface

Harry Kewell is already one of the brightest young talents in England. But it's how good he could become that has some of the best judges — and Socceroos coach Frank Farina — salivating.

By Doug Booth



IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT HARRY Kewell is being hailed as one of the best players in the English Premier League this season. His performances for Leeds United not only helped the Yorkshire club zoom to the top of the league in early October but earned him rare praise from leading identities in the English game.

Former England great John Barnes, who is now helping Kevin Keegan to rekindle some pride in England's national team, paid Kewell the ultimate tribute.

Barnes, like Kewell a player noted for his left foot skills with the ball, said if the Sydney-born playmaker was not "tied" to the LG Socceroos, he would be a regular in any England squad.

And former England manager Graham Taylor was equally full of praise after Leeds (and Kewell) beat his side Watford 2-1 in early October.

"I don't like using the word great because it should only be applied to a handful of players, but Kewell has the potential to get into that category," Taylor said.

"He's very talented on the ball, he has a great left foot, and I felt before the game we would have problems with him if he got us in one-on-one situations. Unfortunately, he did just that. On top of all that, he has exceptional pace and knows what he is looking for."

While Kewell acknowledges the praise from respected judges who've seen many a player over the years, he certainly lives up to his cool charm reputation.

"I don't read the papers, so I don't know what people are saying. But it's nice to be talked about like that," he says casually.

It has been an amazing ride to the top for Kewell, who celebrated his 21st birthday on September 22 — the same day as Brazilian superstar Ronaldo.

The youngest of three children born to

Rod and Helen in the Sydney suburb of Smithfield, Kewell is a product of the youth team policy employed by Leeds which is beginning to reap rewards. With coaches of the calibre of former United great Eddie Gray masterminding his development, the ex-NSW Soccer Federation's Big Brother scheme participant has come a long way in a short time.

“He’s very talented on the ball, he has a great left foot, and I felt before the game we would have problems with him if he got us in one-on-one situations. On top of all that, he has exceptional pace and knows what he is looking for.”

— Former England manager and now Watford boss Graham Taylor on Harry Kewell.

Next time: Kewell was devastated by Australia's loss to Iran in Melbourne in 1998, and has his sights set on World Cup 2002.



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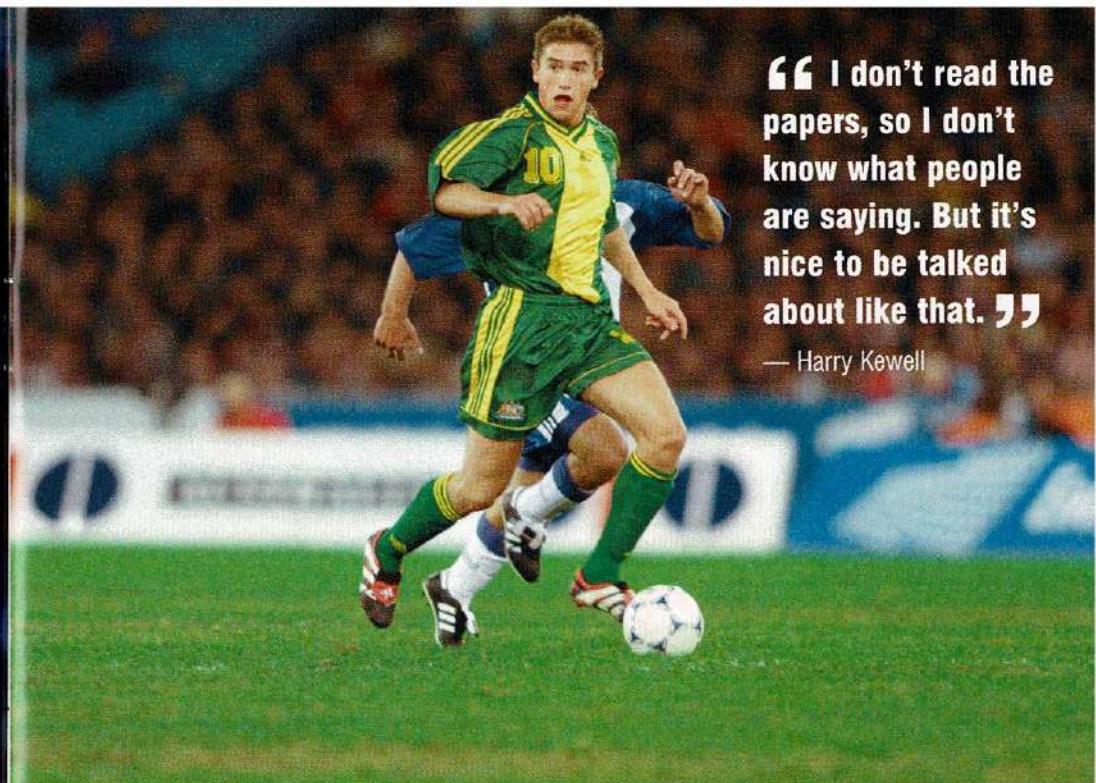


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“I don't read the papers, so I don't know what people are saying. But it's nice to be talked about like that.”

— Harry Kewell

Kewell has showed his loyalty to Leeds and manager David O'Leary by pledging to stay at Elland Road for the next five years. But while the surrounds won't change in the near future, there is no room for complacency in Kewell's life. Quite simply, Kewell is passionate about success.

Not surprisingly, any talk of wild parties to celebrate his “coming of age” were not part of the equation.

“I just had a quiet time with my mates and girlfriend Sheree,” he says of the night of his 21st birthday.

As for finding the back of the net again, Kewell is taking that in his stride as well.

“It's nice to be scoring again,” he says of his goals against Middlesborough and Watford which helped take Leeds to the top of the table.

“It's something I have been working

on for quite a while.”

The relaxed Kewell lives up to his surname off the field as well as on it. When the Premier League had a free weekend in early October, he and his girlfriend headed from Leeds for the bright lights of London.

“Sheree's best friend is in a stage show called *Starlight Express*, so we went down and watched it,” he says.

Kewell's desire to be a winner on both the domestic and international stages have been ingrained in the brilliant young playmaker since that night at the MCG two years ago when Australia's path to the World Cup finals was cruelly blocked by a come-from-behind effort from Iran.

Kewell had returned to Australia on a high after putting the Socceroos ahead in the first leg of the World Cup qualifier in Tehran. He'll never forget scoring that goal.

"It was weird, when I scored," he remembers.

"The whole stadium went deadly silent. I thought there was something wrong — one minute there were 130,000 Iranians screaming their heads off, the next there was nothing, not a sound."

With the excitement of doing so well in Iran behind them, nothing could prepare Kewell or his teammates for the initial joy and ultimate heartbreak a week later at the MCG.

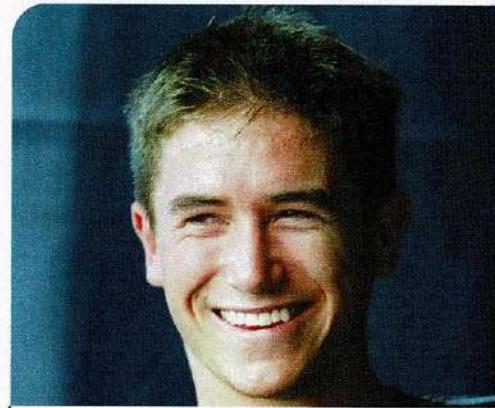
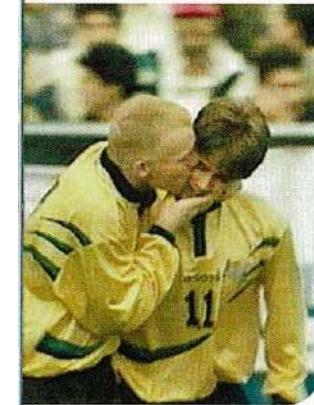
"It was brilliant at first — I can still remember running out in front of all those cheering people," he says.

"But when Iran scored that second goal late in the game, you could have heard a pin drop."

While all that is in the past, Kewell admits the painful memories are taking a long time to go away. His immediate focus is on doing well for Leeds before helping the Socceroos qualify for the next World Cup finals in 2002.

New LG Socceroos coach Frank Farina and Soccer Australia have never underestimated the value of their golden boy. Kewell is very much the game's marketing flagship in Australia. It was Kewell who was asked to unveil the Socceroos' new predominantly green strip in June for the match against the FIFA World Stars in Sydney. And he has already pledged his full support to playing for the Olyroos at next year's Sydney Olympics.

As the Games get closer, Kewell plans to find time in the lead-up to the big event in his home city to reflect on where it all began — a little park in Smithfield in western Sydney, where he played for Smithfield Hotspurs as a seven-year-old



Coming-out party: Having only recently celebrated his 21st birthday, Kewell first came of age when he scored for the Socceroos in Tehran in 1997 (left).

with dreams of stardom.

Kewell revisited his past in June when he was in Australia for the FIFA World Stars game, intently watching as youngsters took part in the Coerver coaching system, a method which has been practised by the NSW Soccer Federation in the '90s.

"It is based on skill drills which you perform so often they become second nature," Kewell explains.

"Some of the tricks I picked up have helped me get the better of defenders in the English Premier League. The constant repetitions might not be exciting to youngsters high on energy, but it pays off if you stick with it."

Smart, talented, marketable, and a player mature beyond his years. Australian soccer has a good one with this young man, and our dreams of qualifying for the biggest event in world soccer in 2002 are intertwined with his continued development. Frank Farina surely knows that. ☺

Doug Booth writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.

Man of the moment: Kewell unveiled the new Socceroos strip in Sydney in June before showing his sublime skills against the FIFA World Stars at Stadium Australia.



Frank's first foray



What was your reaction when you were told you were the new Socceroo coach?

To be totally honest, I was over the moon. I was floating around for a few days. But I wasn't nervous about it because once it was announced that Soccer Australia was going for a local candidate it took so long (for the appointment to be made).

Were you concerned it took so long?

I always believe if it's meant to be in your life, it will happen. The best thing that came out of all four interviews (Farina was challenged for the job by Eddie Krnceanic, Ange Postecoglou and caretaker coach and current Olympic coach Raul Blanco) was that it really opened up the selectors' eyes to just what talent we have among our coaches here.

As 35-year-old Frank Farina (left) prepared Australia for the two-match series against Brazil, Doug Booth spoke to the new LG Socceroos coach about his expectations for the top job in the sport in this country.

In many ways, the likes of yourself, Graham Arnold, Eddie Krnceanic and Robbie Slater are very similar. You've returned from overseas to spread the message of the game as a coach. Do you feel any pressure to perform? When I came back to Brisbane at 32, it was a choice I made that I'd had enough overseas. It wasn't a conscious effort from me saying 'I'm coming back to give something back to the game', but the change was a bit like a holiday. I was refreshed and I had a great time in Brisbane.

Do you think it's almost a duty of players who have played at the top level overseas to come back and share their knowledge?

Not so much a duty, but I feel you do have a certain responsibility to give something back, whether it is at junior



Winning ways: After returning from overseas, Farina led the Brisbane Strikers to the NSL title in 1997.

“Playing for your country is a privilege, it's not a right. An Australian jersey is not something you can buy. It's something you earn, with hard work, sweat, determination and pride.”

level or at senior level, moving up through the academies. But it does depend on your motivation and drive.

After all these years of playing, and now coaching, do you still have a love for the game?

I've only ever known football — it has been my life and it has given me everything I've got. As a player, it's time to look for a change the day you lose that

passion and drive to go out on the park and train. I relate the feeling about my appointment (as national coach) to how I felt the first time I played for my country. I'm very enthusiastic and eager to do well.

Do you feel the pressure yet to do well?

Possibly, but I feel it's a positive pressure rather than a negative one. There's all sorts of pressure. I thrive on a challenge and I



love being the underdog — that's the Australian mentality. I don't see it as pressure, I see it as a challenge.

How do we ensure our world-class stars such as Harry Kewell, Mark Bosnich and Mark Viduka represent our country?

The bottom line is there are no guarantees in life. There is no hard and fast rule that says every time you are required for national duty you have to come back. It was very easy 15 years ago when I started in the national team. We all played here in the national league and our national team was structured round that league. Those days are long gone.

Eyeing opportunities: Farina wants Australia to play overseas games during lulls in the European season.

Is it a matter of players being able to pick and choose?

No, definitely not. I've said countless times that playing for your country is a privilege, it's not a right. An Australian jersey is not something you can buy. It's something you earn, with hard work, sweat, determination and pride. All those players want to play for their country, but unfortunately there are problems, and hopefully along the way we will be able to sort them out.

How do you negotiate with clubs such as Leeds United, Manchester United and Celtic?

It's not negotiating — it's more a matter of opening up some lines of communication, which aren't always going to be successful. Sometimes it's a lot easier if, when a manager gets a fax asking for a player to be released, he can put a face or a voice to that request. If those managers can just ring up and say 'Hey, you've no chance for that game', at least the communication is there. At the moment — and I understand this because I've seen them do it — they file the fax in the bin.

Do you see yourself spending a lot of time in Europe each year?

I'm looking at 2-3 internationals a year in Europe, in the windows of the UEFA breaks, of which there are seven possibilities between now and December 2000. If I get three internationals for the team, I'll be over the moon. Two, I'll be very happy. Part of the purpose for my trip at the end of September was to try to arrange some games. It was a matter of making myself known. I told them I was available any time to talk — I don't have any problem going cap in hand to people.

How difficult is it for these players to satisfy both camps?

(New Socceroos assistant coach) Graham Arnold and myself have spoken to the

regular first-team players in Europe, and we understand they have problems. My program is based around maintaining the least amount of conflict with their clubs where they earn their bread and butter.

How is the Socceroo schedule shaping up?

We've got these two games against Brazil, then possibly three matches in Chile in February. I'm also hoping for 2-3 matches after our domestic season in Europe.

man-manager and he had a lot of good ideas.

What can we get out of these two Brazil games?

I see the Brazil series as our first step towards qualifying for the 2002 World Cup finals. I'm stressing that because it is that important. We are up against the fifth-based South American team (to get to the 2002 World Cup finals). Brazil is the best South American team, so

“ Possession's one thing, but you have to put the bloody thing in the back of the net if you are to win games. ”

If the Socceroos can play 8-10 matches a year, you will see a very happy coach.

Which European countries would you like to play?

European countries are happy to play us, especially those who have qualified for Euro 2000. It will be ideal for them because they don't want to show their hand to other neighboring countries.

Describe your relationship with your assistant Graham Arnold.

Graham won't be there to put the cones out at training, put it that way. I don't get people involved to work for me, I get them to work with me. That's my philosophy — I treat everybody equally. Over the years, I've been a bit of a sponge, and I've taken things in. What I use out of the things I've heard and seen is up to me because at the end of the day it's Frank Farina's head that's on the block.

Who has been your major influence?

It's difficult to say there has been just one, but I have to single out Eddie Thomson. A lot of people have different opinions of Eddie, but he was a very good

this series will be a fantastic debut opportunity for me as coach and a fantastic opportunity for the players.

How do you plan to counter their skilful, attacking style?

I've never been a coach that goes out and tries to nullify the opposition because when you do that, you start to lose sight of what you want to do. We have players now who are technically very gifted and they know that they can keep possession of the ball. Possession's one thing, but you have to put the bloody thing in the back of the net if you are to win games.

Have you spoken to Raleasic (who took Australia to the World Cup finals in 1974) since your appointment?

I've spoken to him regularly, and he makes sure I remember the 1974 Socceroos. He constantly reminds me that he is only coach this century to take Australia to the finals ... ☑

Doug Booth writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.

LG Socceroos



Frank Farina has named a strong Australian squad for his first games as head coach of the LG Socceroos. Australia is set to face Brazil in Sydney and Melbourne with Farina's squad of 18 players, each of whom are profiled below.

Listen for public announcements at the match and fill in the number of each player in the circle next to their name.

PAUL AGOSTINO forward

Date of Birth: June 9, 1975 Full international appearances: 2
 Height: 184cm International debut: April 23, 1996
 Weight: 78kg v Chile
 Club: 1860 Munich (Germany) Goals: 0



MARK BOSNICH goalkeeper

Date of Birth: January 13, 1972 Full international appearances: 16
 Height: 185cm International debut: May 30, 1993
 Weight: 85kg v New Zealand
 Club: Manchester United (England) Goals: 1



STEVE CORICA midfielder

Date of Birth: March 24, 1973 Full international appearances: 13
 Height: 173cm International debut: April 15, 1993
 Weight: 68kg v Kuwait
 Club: Wolverhampton (England) Goals: 1



BRETT EMERTON midfielder

Date of Birth: February 22, 1979 Full international appearances: 5
 Height: 185cm International debut: February 7, 1998 v Chile
 Weight: 85kg Club: Sydney Olympic (Australia)
 Goals: 0



RICHARD JOHNSON midfielder

Date of Birth: April 27, 1974 Full international appearances: 0
 Height: 175cm International debut: N/A
 Weight: 70kg Goals: 0
 Club: Watford (England)



ZELJKO KALAC goalkeeper

Date of Birth: December 16, 1972 Full international appearances: 29
 Height: 202cm International debut: August 11, 1992 v Malaysia
 Weight: 91kg Club: Roda JC (Holland)
 Goals: 0



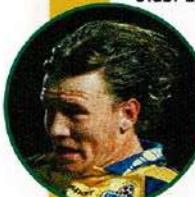
HARRY KEWELL midfielder

Date of Birth: September 22, 1978 Full international appearances: 8
 Height: 179cm International debut: April 23, 1996
 Weight: 77kg v Chile
 Club: Leeds United (England) Goals: 3



STEPHEN LAYBUTT defender

Date of Birth: September 3, 1977 Full international appearances: 0
 Height: 185cm International debut: N/A
 Weight: 85kg Goals: 0
 Club: Bellmare Hiratsuka (Japan)





STAN LAZARIDIS defender

Date of Birth: August 16, 1972 Full international appearances: 25
 Height: 175cm International debut: April 15, 1993
 Weight: 76kg v Kuwait
 Club: Birmingham City (England) Goals: 0



CRAIG MOORE defender

Date of Birth: December 12, 1975 Full international appearances: 8
 Height: 186cm International debut: June 21, 1995 v Ghana
 Weight: 76kg
 Club: Glasgow Rangers (Scotland) Goals: 0



DAMIAN MORI forward

Date of Birth: July 30, 1970 Full international appearances: 38
 Height: 181cm International debut: September 4, 1992 v Solomon Islands
 Weight: 86kg
 Club: Adelaide Force (Australia) Goals: 22



KEVIN MUSCAT defender

Date of Birth: August 7, 1973 Full international appearances: 14
 Height: 180cm International debut: April 24, 1994
 Weight: 73kg v Kuwait
 Club: Wolverhampton (England) Goals: 1



PAUL OKON defender

Date of Birth: April 5, 1972 Full international appearances: 5
 Height: 180cm International debut: February 4, 1991 v Czechoslovakia
 Weight: 80kg
 Club: Fiorentina (Italy) Goals: 0



JOSIP SKOKO midfielder

Date of Birth: December 10, 1975 Full international appearances: 8
 Height: 177cm International debut: March 12, 1997 v Macedonia
 Weight: 77kg
 Club: Hajduk Split (Croatia) Goals: 0



DANNY TIATTO midfielder

Date of Birth: May 22, 1973 International appearances: 7
 Height: 175cm International debut: February 8, 1995 v Colombia
 Weight: 73kg
 Club: Manchester City (England) Goals: 0



TONY VIDMAR defender

Date of Birth: July 4, 1970 Full international appearances: 37
 Height: 187cm International debut: February 4, 1991 v Czechoslovakia
 Weight: 80kg
 Club: Glasgow Rangers (Scotland) Goals: 1



MARK VIDUKA forward

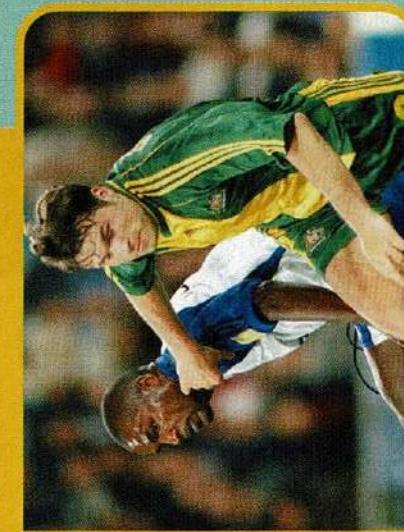
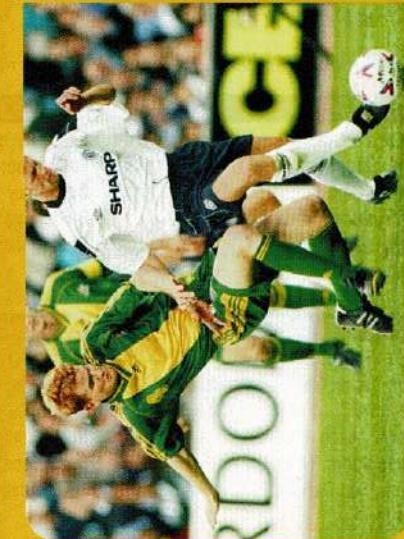
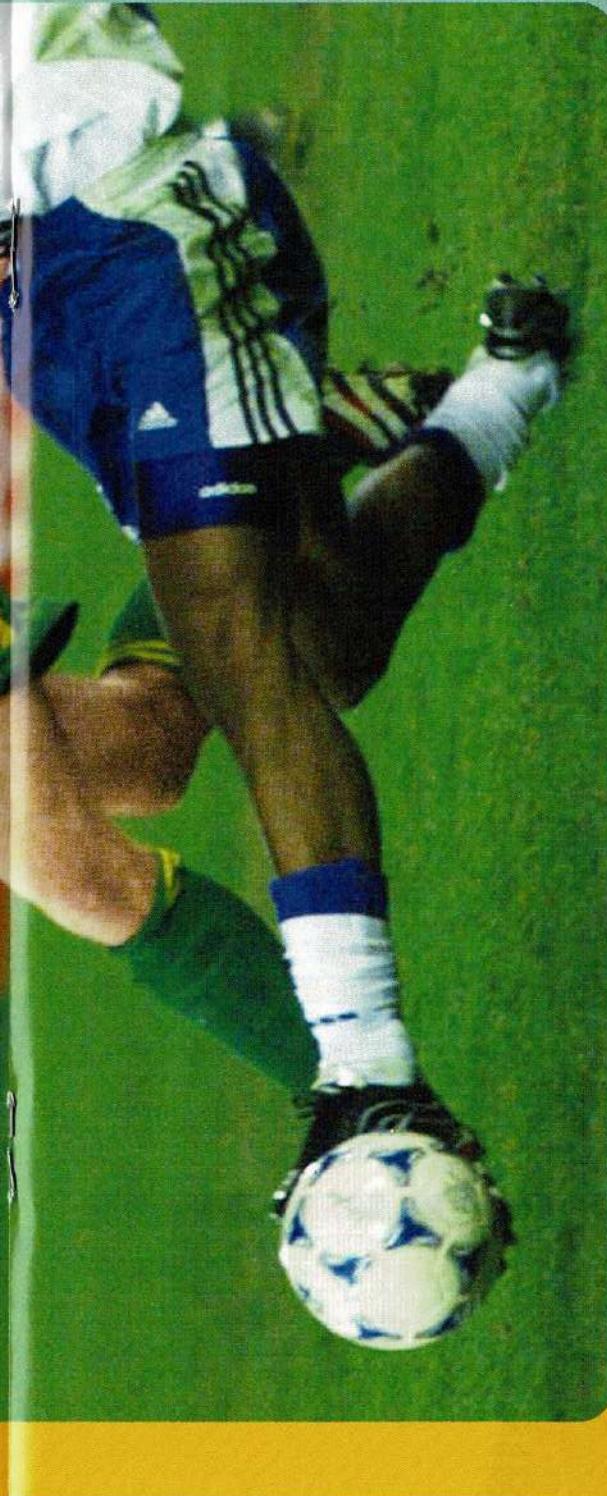
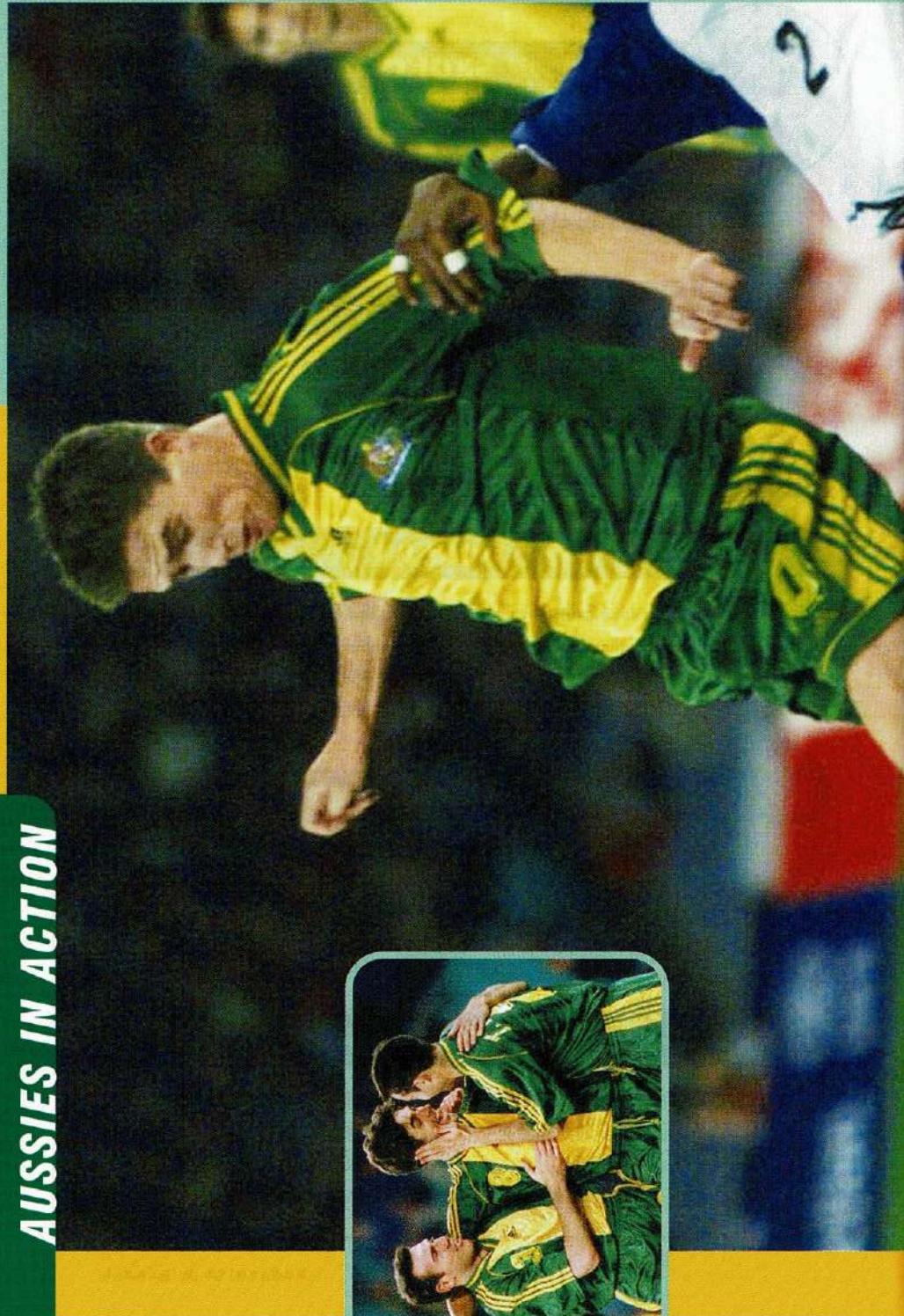
Date of Birth: October 9, 1975 Full international appearances: 16
 Height: 187cm International debut: September 24, 1993 v South Korea
 Weight: 91kg
 Club: Glasgow Celtic (Scotland) Goals: 2



NED ZELIC midfielder

Date of Birth: July 4, 1971 Full international appearances: 33
 Height: 187cm International debut: February 4, 1991 v Czechoslovakia
 Weight: 83kg
 Club: 1860 Munich (Germany) Goals: 3

AUSSIES IN ACTION



Socceroos on show
(clockwise from left) Mark Viduka shows some pace; Hayden Foxe defends desperately; Ned Zelic (centre) celebrates with teammates Stan Lazaridis and Tony Vidmar; and Harry Kewell has the ball on a string.

BRAZILIAN TEAM



ALLSPORT

BRAZIL



Brazil has played 20 games this year before touching down in Australia to play the LG Socceroos in Sydney and Melbourne.

Here are profiles on the 23-man squad that will face the Socceroos under the watchful eye of national team coach Wanderley Luxemburgo.

By Kit Galer

Listen for announcements and fill in the number of each player in the circle next to their name.

RENATO

Goalkeeper
Full name: Renato de Oliveira
Born: August 30, 1978
Birthplace: Jaguapita, Parana
Club: Corinthians
Caps: 2

ALEXANDRE

Goalkeeper
Full name: Alexandre Favaro Correa
Born: May 21, 1977
Birthplace: Monte Dourado
Club: Ponte Preta
Caps: 1

MICHEL

Defender
Full name: Michel dos Reis Santana
Born: November 18, 1977
Birthplace: Sao Paulo
Club: Santos
Caps: 2

SILVIO

Goalkeeper
Full name: Silvio Luis Oliveira de Lima
Born: March 1, 1977
Birthplace: Rio de Janeiro
Club: Sao Caetano
Caps: 1

MANCINI

Defender
Full name: Alessandro Faiolhe Amantino
Born: August 1, 1980
Birthplace: Minas Gerais
Club: Atletico Mineiro
Caps: 1

DEDE

Defender
Full name: Leonardo de Deus Santos
Born: April 18, 1978
Birthplace: Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais
Club: Borussia Dortmund
Caps: 1

ATHIRSON

Defender
Full name: Athirson Mazolli E Oliveira
Born: January 16, 1977
Birthplace: Rio de Janeiro
Club: Flamengo
International debut: v New Zealand, July 1999
Caps: 1
Highly-rated Flamengo defender-cum-midfielder who was given his chance in the Confederations Cup match against New Zealand in Mexico earlier this year. Good distributor of the ball who likes to get forward at every opportunity.

CRIS

Defender
Full name: Cristiano Marques Gomes
Born: June 3, 1977
Birthplace: Guarulhos, Sao Paulo
Club: Cruzeiro
Caps: 17, 1 goal

ALVARO

Defender
Full name: Alvaro Luiz Maior de Aquino
Born: November 1, 1977
Birthplace: Nilopolis, Rio de Janeiro
Club: Goias
Caps: 27, 5 goals

FABIO

Defender
Full name: Fabio Alves da Silva
Born: January 4, 1979
Birthplace: Campina Grande, Paraiba
Club: Venezia
Caps: 8

MILTON DO O

Defender
Full name: Milton Rogerio Harassen do O
Born: February 24, 1979
Birthplace: Ponta Grossa, Parana
Club: Parana
Caps: 3

LUIS ALBERTO

Defender
Full name: Luis Alberto Da Silva Oliveira
Born: January 12, 1977
Birthplace: Rio de Janeiro
Height: 186cm
Weight: 84kg
Club: Flamengo
International debut: v New Zealand, July 1999
Caps: 1
Accomplished young Flamengo defender Luis Alberto made his Brazil debut in the experimental side which faced New Zealand in the Confederations Cup. A sound performance suggested a bright international future.

**MARCOS PAULO**

Midfielder
Full name: Marcos Paulo Alves
Born: May 11, 1977
Birthplace: Doresopolis, Minas Gerais
Height: 178cm
Weight: 74kg
Club: Cruzeiro
International debut: v Holland, June 1999
Caps: 2, 1 goal
Only 22, Marcos Paulo appears to have a great future despite recording only two full international appearances so far. The first was as a halftime substitute in the second friendly against Holland, while the second was a full Confederations Cup game against New Zealand where he blasted home a thundering 30m shot just before halftime to help Brazil towards a 2-0 win.

FABIANO

Midfielder
Full name: Fabiano Pereira da Costa
Born: April 6, 1978
Birthplace: Marilia, Sao Paulo
Club: Sao Paulo
Caps: 31, 8 goals

MOZART

Defender
Full name: Mozart Santos Batista Junior
Born: November 8, 1979
Birthplace: Coritiba, Parana
Club: Coritiba
Caps: 1

ADRIANO

Midfielder
Full name: Carlos Adriano de Souza Vieira
Born: August 11, 1977
Birthplace: Maceio, Alagoas
Club: Atletico Paranaense
Caps: 1

Ronaldo



SPORTS LIBRARY

FELIPE

Midfielder

Full name: Felipe Jorge Loureiro
Born: September 2, 1977
Birthplace: Rio de Janeiro
Club: Vasco da Gama
Caps: 1

ALEX

Midfielder

Full name: Alexsandro de Souza
Born: September 14, 1977
Birthplace: Coritiba, Parana
Height: 174cm
Weight: 68kg
Club: Palmeiras
International debut: v Yugoslavia, September 1998
Caps: 12, 6 goals

Alex made a quick impression in his first game this year against Latvia, hitting the post with a 25th minute penalty and scoring a minute later. The 22-year-old has since scored five more goals in nine matches, including two in the 4-0 defeat of Germany. Quick and skilful player with a good eye for an opening.

DENILSON

Forward

Full name: Denilson de Oliveira
Born: August 24, 1977
Birthplace: Sao Bernardo do Camo, Sao Paulo
Height: 178cm
Weight: 62kg
Club: Real Betis
International debut: v Syria, April 1995
Caps: 25, 6 goals

Still only 22, the slight Denilson was one of the stars of France '98, coming off the bench to confuse and bamboozle defences with his tight ball control and lightning pace. A goalscoring winger in the old Brazilian tradition of Garrincha and Zagallo, Denilson left his home club Sao Paulo after the World Cup to join Real Betis in Spain for \$55 million.

Denilson



RONALDINHO

Forward

Full name: Ronaldo de Assis Moreira
Born: March 21, 1980
Birthplace: Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul
Height: 178cm
Weight: 70kg
Club: Gremio
International debut: v Venezuela, June 1999

Caps: 9, 7 goals

Regarded as the big hope for the future of Brazilian soccer, the 19-year-old Gremio striker scored a dazzling goal on his Copa America debut, and then starred in the Confederations Cup where he ended as the tournament's top-scorer with six. Great first touch, power and speed off the mark suggest he is going to be one of the great players of the new millennium.

Ronaldinho



RONALDO

Forward
Full name: Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima

Born: September 22, 1976

Birthplace: Rio de Janeiro

Height: 179cm

Weight: 77kg

Club: Inter Milan

International debut: v Ecuador, July 1995

Caps: 57, 30 goals

After a turbulent time with injuries since his traumatic 1998 World Cup final experience, Ronaldo at last seems to be recovering the form, both internationally and with Inter Milan in Italy, where he has helped forge a reputation as the world's supreme striker. Strong and fast, and very hard to shake off the ball, Ronaldo's finishing is deadly. World soccer player of the year in 1998.

FABIO JUNIOR

Forward

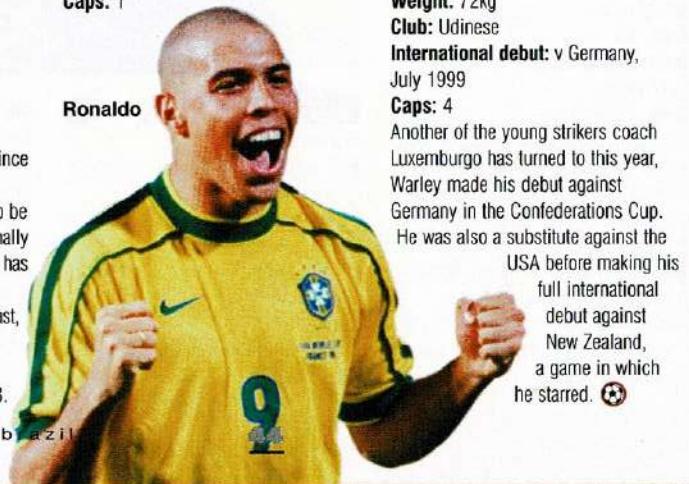
Full name: Fabio Junior Pereira
Born: November 22, 1977

Birthplace: Manhuacu, Minas Gerais

Club: AS Roma

Caps: 1

Ronaldo



AUSTRALIA v BRAZIL

WARLEY

Forward

Full name: Warley Silva Dos Santos
Born: February 13, 1978

Birthplace: Brasilia

Height: 180cm

Weight: 72kg

Club: Udinese

International debut: v Germany, July 1999

Caps: 4

Another of the young strikers coach Luxemburgo has turned to this year, Warley made his debut against Germany in the Confederations Cup. He was also a substitute against the USA before making his full international debut against New Zealand, a game in which he starred. ⚽

MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND



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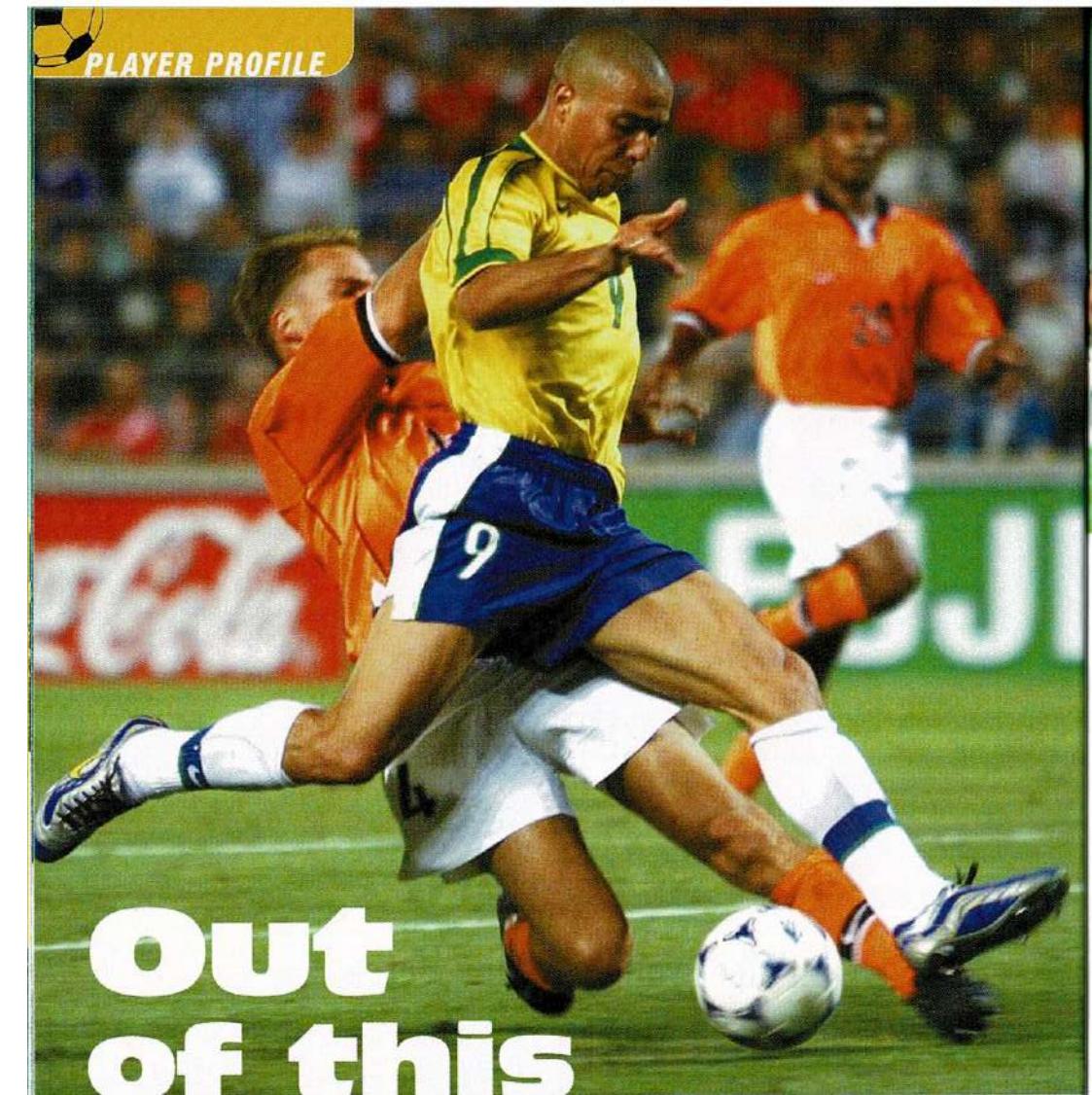
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PLAYER PROFILE

out of this world

When Ronaldo takes to the field, opposition defenders often need more than earthly powers to stop him.

By **Kit Galer**

FEW WOULD ARGUE THAT 23-YEAR-old shaven-headed striker Ronaldo is the player of his generation in world soccer, despite a wretched World Cup final last year in Paris and a battle with debilitating knee injuries for much of this season in the Italian Serie A with Internazionale of Milan.

If Pele was the player of the 1960s, his countryman Ronaldo defines the game at the end of the century. And if Ronaldo



Marked man: Ronaldo's size, speed and vast array of attacking talents make him a target for opposition defenders.

Stadium. Barcelona's fans were under no illusions about his sublime skills. They called him "the Extraterrestrial."

Last year, he led Internazionale to victory in the UEFA Cup final.

Ronaldo is big and strong with supreme balance, a potent shot, and, like all the greatest players, is stunningly quick to seize any half-chances around goal.

He's certainly come a long, long way from his early days. As a muscular Rio de Janeiro youngster, Ronaldo's career began by kicking a ball around on the suburban streets of Bento Ribeiro. He was soon identified as an outstanding prospect and signed for the mighty Flamengo club.

His stay there was unfortunately short because Ronaldo, raised by his mother in modest circumstances, could not afford the bus fares to take him to and from the Flamengo juniors' training ground. You would imagine they now wish they had paid for his travel.

Kit Galer writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.



FACT FILE **Ronaldo**

Full name: Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima

Born: September 22, 1976

Birthplace: Rio de Janeiro

Height: 179cm **Weight:** 77kg

Clubs: Sao Cristovao (1992), Cruzeiro (1993-94), PSV Eindhoven (1994-96), Barcelona (1996), Inter Milan (1997-)

International debut: v Ecuador, July 1995

Matches: 57

Goals: 30



The year in review

At the tail-end of a hectic year, Brazil comes to Australia with an imposing 1999 record.

By Kit Galer

High-five: Ronaldo (left) and strike partner Rivaldo have scored in the same game five times this year.

BRASIL IS THE TEAM THE WHOLE world wants to see, which explains why it has a much heavier annual workload than most other countries. When Brazil runs out at the MCG against Australia in its last game before the new millennium on November 17, it will be playing its 22nd game since losing to South Korea in Seoul at the end of March.

Six wins from six Copa matches, 17 goals scored, and just two conceded. It was vintage Brazil.

Confederations Cup final by the odd goal in seven against a Mexican outfit that played above itself in front of a massive crowd at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.

While Brazil's year started somewhat inauspiciously with that defeat by South Korea, it improved on the second leg of its Asian tour three days later in Tokyo. Goals from Lazio striker Amoroso and Emerson, who plays in Germany for

Bayer Leverkusen, secured a 2-0 victory against Japan.

Brazil rarely plays against club sides in friendly matches, so it is some measure of the bond between it and Spanish champion Barcelona that Brazil sent a strong side to the Nou Camp in April for a match to celebrate Barca's centenary. The sides drew 2-2, and it was fitting that Brazil's goals should come from Ronaldo, a Barcelona "old boy", and Rivaldo, a current star of the Barca attack.

Brazil then warmed up for July's Copa America campaign with two home games against Holland and a comfortable 3-0 victory against Latvia. The Dutch proved to be tough opposition as expected, with the first game in Salvador ending in a 2-2 draw and the second in a hard-fought 3-1 victory for Brazil with another goal from the rejuvenated Amoroso and two from AC Milan midfielder Leonardo. The second game was a fierce encounter, with three Dutchmen and two Brazilians — Amoroso and Rivaldo — sent off in the second half.

The tough games against Holland must have been the preparation for the Copa America tournament that coach Wanderley Luxemburgo was looking for. Brazil simply blitzed the opposition in Paraguay, destroying Venezuela 7-0 first-up before accounting for much tougher

opposition in Chile (1-0), Argentina (2-1) and Mexico (2-0). In the final, the Brazilians comfortably defeated Uruguay 3-0 in Asuncion.

Rivaldo put Brazil ahead with a header, and later added a second goal midway through the first half. Rivaldo turned provider at the start of the second half, laying on the pass from which Ronaldo netted the third in a one-sided final. Six wins from six Copa matches, 17 goals scored, and just two conceded. It was vintage Brazil.

From Paraguay, the team had just six days break before the start of the Confederations Cup in Mexico. Brazil began with a 4-0 demolition of Germany in Guadalajara, which was followed by victories against the USA (1-0) and New Zealand (2-0) before it stepped up a gear and thrashed Saudi Arabia 8-2. Gremio's rising star Ronaldinho Assis hit a stunning hat-trick.

Perhaps this wasn't the best preparation for the final because opponent Mexico had the edge for most of the match. Although Ze Roberto made it 4-3 late in the game, the home side created better chances and were worthy winners.

Worse was to follow when arch-rival Argentina gained some measure of revenge for its Copa America defeat with a stirring 2-0 win in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil, at full strength with the exception of the injured Amoroso, could make little impact on the Argentine midfield. However, it was a different story three days later in Porto Alegre. Brazil turned on the power, Rivaldo scored a hat-trick, and Argentina was beaten 4-2.

Luxemburgo has introduced a number of new young players into the side this year, with rising talents such as 22-year-olds Alex and Roni and the 19-year-old Ronaldinho being given the chance to find their feet. ⚽

The results

Brazil's 1999 games, results and goalscorers

Date	Home/Away	Against	Score	Brazilian scorers
Mar 28	Away	South Korea	0-1	-
Mar 31	Away	Japan	2-0	Amoroso, Emerson
Apr 28	Away	Barcelona	2-2	Ronaldo, Rivaldo
Jun 5	Home	Holland	2-2	Amoroso, Giovanni
Jun 8	Home	Holland	3-1	Amoroso, Leonardo (2)
Jun 26	Home	Latvia	3-0	Alex, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldo
Jun 30	CA	Venezuela	7-0	Ronaldo (2), Amoroso (2), Ronaldinho, Emerson, Rivaldo
Jul 3	CA	Mexico	2-1	Amoroso, Alex
Jul 6	CA	Chile	1-0	Ronaldo (pen)
Jul 11	CA	Argentina	2-1	Rivaldo (pen), Ronaldo
Jul 14	CA	Mexico	2-0	Amoroso, Rivaldo
Jul 18	CA (final)	Uruguay	3-0	Rivaldo (2), Ronaldo
Jul 24	CC	Germany	4-0	Alex (2), Ze Roberto, Ronaldinho
Jul 28	CC	USA	1-0	Ronaldinho
Jul 30	CC	New Zealand	2-0	Marcos Paulo, Ronaldinho
Aug 1	CC	Saudi Arabia	8-2	Ronaldinho (3), Joao Carlos, Ze Roberto, Alex (2), Roni
Aug 4	CC (final)	Mexico	3-4	Serginho (pen), Roni, Ze Roberto
Sept 4	Home	Argentina	0-2	-
Sept 7	Home	Argentina	4-2	Rivaldo (3), Ronaldo
Oct 9	Away	Holland	2-2	Roberto Carlos, Cafu

NB: CA — Copa America in Paraguay, CC — Confederations Cup in Mexico.

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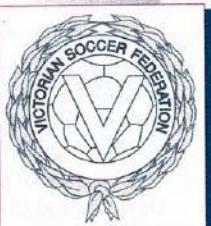
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"I feel blessed to be part of the Olympic Games. So many nations, so many people, all competing. We have a responsibility to represent our country, we are confident and believe in our own ability. For the first time in decades we will have player number 12 on the pitch, that is, the people of Australia."

Raul Blanco - Coach
Australian Men's Olympic Team

"The women's team are on the verge of great things - the experience the younger players gained from the World Cup, the development programs since, and the support we know we'll get from the home crowd during the Olympic Games, will all assist us as we strive together for a medal."

Chris Tansey - Coach
Australian Women's Olympic Team

Experience
Olympic Games
Football
in our own backyard.



Olympic Games Football

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What you need to know about Olympic Games football

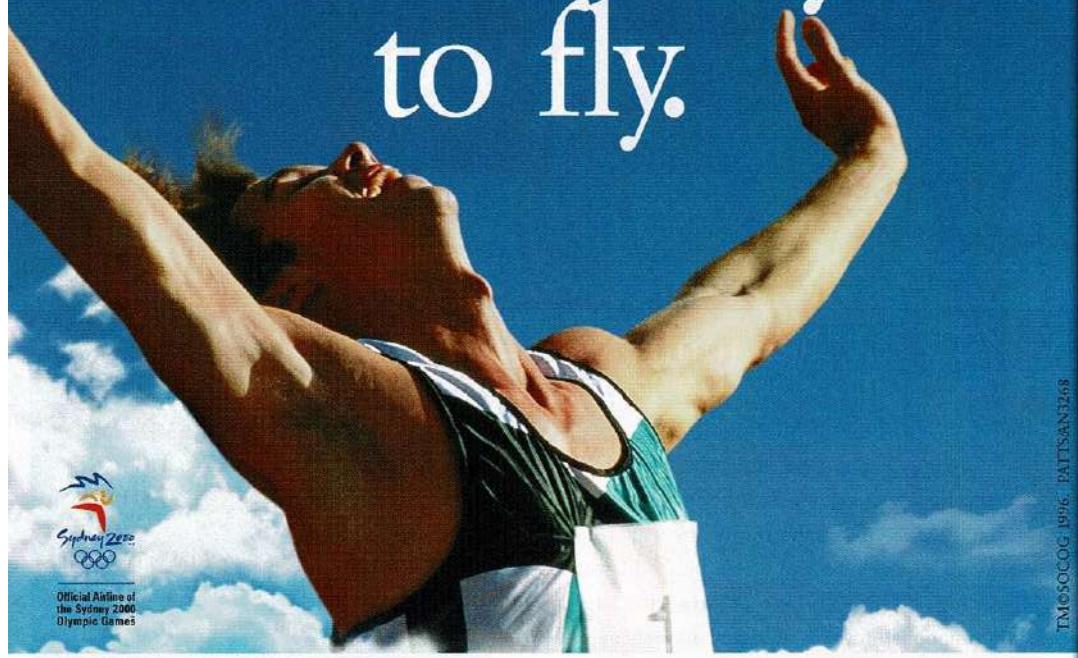
- Sixteen men's teams and eight women's teams will compete at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.
- As host nation for the Olympic Games, Australia automatically qualifies for both the men's and women's tournaments.
- The women's teams have already been chosen through their performances at the Women's World Cup in June/July this year. Australia will be up against the current Olympic and World Champions, the United States of America, along with China, Sweden, Norway, Nigeria, Brazil and Germany. The women's tournament will take place in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.
- Following the completion of all the men's qualifying matches, a Draw Ceremony mid next year will determine who Australia will play in the men's tournament.

Around Australia, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra and Brisbane will be sharing in the spirit of the Games by hosting matches in the Olympic football tournaments.

The Brazilian women's team is already confirmed as attending, having gained a bronze medal at the recent Women's World Cup in the United States. If the Brazilian men's team qualify for Sydney, they will be determined to add the so far elusive Olympic gold medal to their nation's football achievements.



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In the **hot seat**

Meet the new man employed as coach of the Brazilian soccer team — one of the toughest posts in world sport.

By **Kit Galer**

IT IS ONE OF THE TOP JOBS IN WORLD soccer, but one that can destroy even the biggest reputations. The coach of the Brazilian national team pilots a squad of supremely talented players who can command seven or eight-figure transfer fees. When things go right, he is a hero. But when things go wrong ... well, that's a different story.

It is largely because of things going wrong that 47-year-old Wanderley Luxemburgo now finds himself at the helm of the most famous national soccer team in the world. Brazil is always quick to distance itself from World Cup failure, and Mario Zagallo was dismissed after Brazil's disappointing performance in the 1998 final against France. Reaching the final apparently wasn't enough.

Luxemburgo came with an impeccable coaching record at Brazilian club level. A former professional player with Internacional and Botafogo, he began to coach as an assistant, first with Rio's America club and later with Vasco da Gama.

Luxemburgo had two spells coaching in Saudi Arabia and was in charge of such famous clubs as Flamengo, Palmeiras,



Glare of the spotlight: Brazilian coach Wanderley Luxemburgo is a man constantly under the microscope.

Santos and Corinthians at home before taking over from Zagallo in August 1998.

Luxemburgo can point to some impressive successes this year, including comprehensive wins against European big guns Germany and Holland, and a 3-0 victory over Uruguay in the final of the Copa America in July.

While trying to build on some early success, Luxemburgo has made no secret of the fact that future conquests are his main priority. Talking after Rivaldo and Ronaldo's goals had clinched the win against Uruguay, he said: "Today was very important, not just for the conquest but for the future. This is the first phase of our project to prepare for the Olympics and the 2002 World Cup." 

Kit Galer writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.



Class combination:
When Garrincha
(above, right) and
Pele were on the
park together, Brazil
was unbeatable.

Legends of Brazil

Pele, Garrincha, Zico and Romario — all some of the best names ever to grace international soccer fields, and all of them Brazilian.

By **Kit Galer**

SPORTS LIBRARY

Pele — "The Black Pearl"

From a country which has produced so many outstanding players, Pele remains the greatest of all. Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento on October 23, 1940, the man nicknamed "The Black Pearl" is the finest player the game has ever known.

A playmaker of great vision with lightning reflexes and a stunning shot, Pele presided over a golden age of Brazilian soccer.

Pele was just 15 when he made his debut for the great Santos club in Sao Paulo in 1956, and scored in a 7-1 win. He scored four goals that season, and after he was the Sao Paulo league's leading scorer with 32 goals the following year, he was immediately brought into the Brazilian national team. Pele made his debut in the famous yellow shirt against Argentina in July 1957, scoring one of the two goals in a Brazil win.

The following year, he made his World Cup finals debut in Sweden, and a star was born. Pele was introduced into the side in Brazil's third game against the USSR. While he didn't score in a 2-0 win, he scored the only goal in the next match, and then snared a stunning hat-trick in a 5-2 semi-final win against France. In the final against Sweden, Pele scored two more in a 5-2 win, and the 17-year-old country boy was suddenly a sensation.

While Pele remained a stunning force in Brazilian domestic soccer, his World Cup influence waned during the next two campaigns. Brazil retained the Jules Rimet trophy four years later in Chile, but Pele played little part. He scored the only goal in the opening game against Mexico, but was injured in a group match against Czechoslovakia and was sidelined for the remaining games as Brazil won the tournament again.

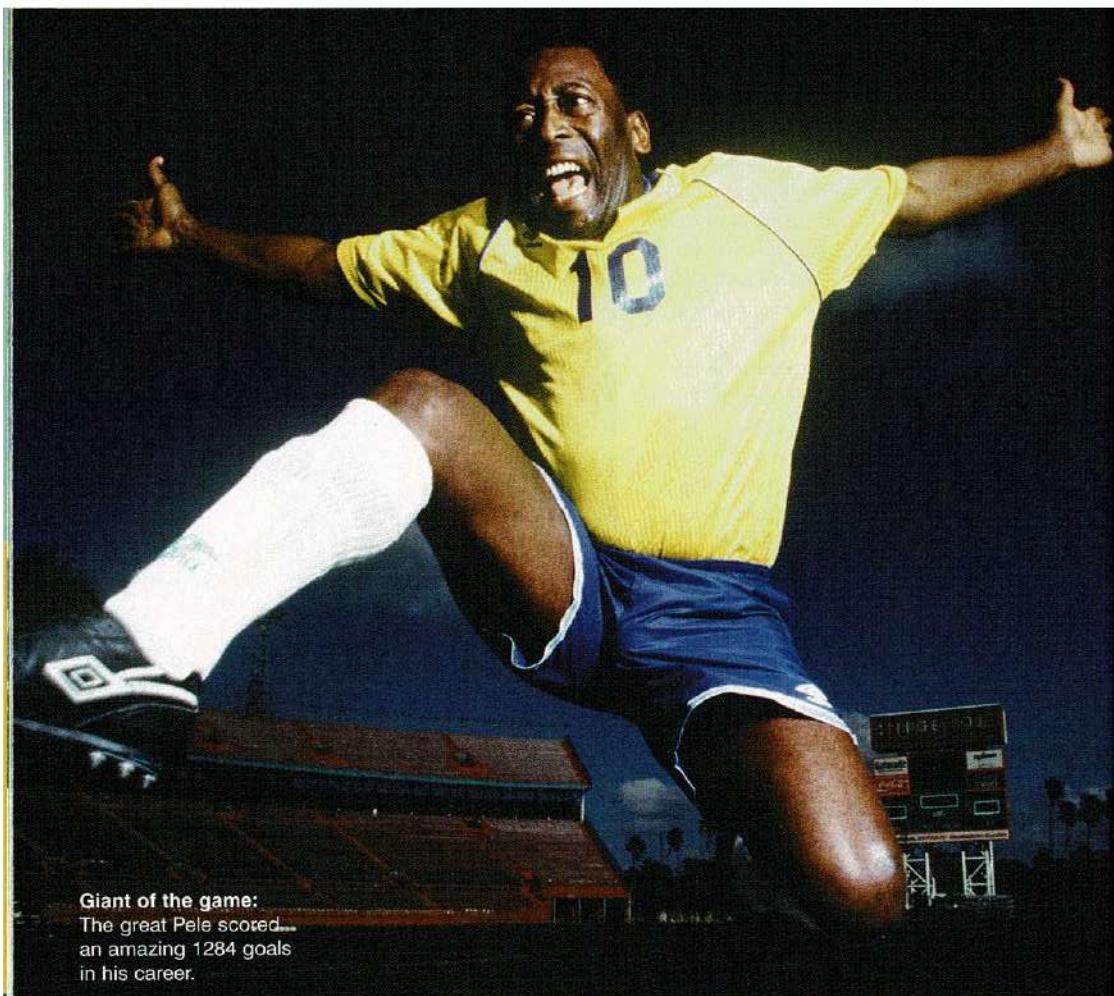
Four years later in England, it seemed the easiest way to stop Brazil was to chop



Crowning glory: Romario dominated the 1994 World Cup finals as Brazil became world champions again.

Amazingly, Brazil lost only once with Garrincha in the side — and never when both he and Pele were in the line-up.

Pele out of the game. He scored in rugged opening game against Bulgaria which Brazil won 2-0, but struggled in another hard match against Hungary and was brutally kicked out of the match against Portugal. Significantly, Brazil failed to qualify for the business end of the tournament.



Giant of the game:
The great Pele scored...
an amazing 1284 goals
in his career.

Pele's fourth and final World Cup in Mexico saw him at the very peak of his powers. Brazil won the trophy for the third time, and Pele contributed four goals.

Pele joined the New York Cosmos in the fledgling US league in 1974 and stayed for three years. When he retired, he had scored a staggering 1284 goals, and once scored eight goals in a single game against Botafogo.

Since retiring, Pele has travelled extensively as a sporting ambassador for his country and for the game of soccer, and he is currently Minister of Sport in the Brazilian government.

Garrincha — "The Songbird"

Manuel Francisco dos Santos should never really have played soccer at all.

His left leg was bent inwards, and his right leg was bent outwards and was considerably shorter than his left, giving him a lopsided look. However, the man nicknamed Garrincha (or "songbird") was one of the most mesmerising dribblers of the late 1950s and '60s.

Born in Rio on October 28, 1933, Garrincha's career started in 1948 with LecPan Grande. Four years later, he was transferred to one of the Rio giants, Botafogo. After a glittering 11-year stint there, Garrincha spent three years with

Corinthians before playing for a number of clubs in the twilight of his career.

Garrincha made his international debut against Chile in 1955, and scored 34 goals in 54 internationals, winning World Cup winner's medals in 1958 and, memorably, in 1962, when he took over the creator's role from the injured Pele and piloted Brazil to victory in Chile, scoring four goals on the way.

Amazingly, Brazil lost only once with Garrincha in the side — and never when both he and Pele were in the line-up.

Garrincha lived life to the full. He married three times, fathered 12 children and died in a Rio hospital at the age of 49 after a long battle with alcoholism.

Zico made his international debut against Uruguay in 1976 and scored with one of the vicious swerving free kicks that were to become his trademark.

Zico — "The Little Cockerel"

Zico scored 52 goals for Brazil in 73 full international appearances. Significantly, only Pele has done better.

Born Artur Antunes Coimbra in Rio on March 3, 1953, Zico made his league debut for Flamengo in 1973 and went on to be the greatest player the club had ever produced, scoring nearly 600 goals in 734 matches and helping it to league championships in 1980, 1982 and 1983 as well as the South American Copa Libertadores club championship in 1981.

Zico was transferred to Udinese in Italy in 1983 for \$5 million and spent three successful seasons playing in Serie A. He returned to his beloved Flamengo in the summer of 1985 before joining Kashima Antlers in Japan's fledgling J-League in 1988. He scored 79 goals in 85 games for the Antlers.

But it was in the famous yellow Brazilian shirt that Zico achieved world

fame. He made his international debut against Uruguay in 1976 and scored with one of the vicious swerving free kicks that were to become his trademark.

Zico was a star of the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain, scoring four goals.

Romario — "The Matador"

One of the more recent in a production line of explosive Brazilian strikers, it would be a brave man to say that Romario's international days are over despite his 33 years.

Romario was only 13 when top Brazilian club Vasco da Gama discovered him. But the club thought he was too short and light to make it as a professional,

and it wasn't until he had proved his worth with Olaria that Vasco came back for another look.

Romario later took a path later followed by Ronaldo, signing for PSV Eindhoven in Holland. After five years where he won three league titles, two Dutch Cup finals and a European player of the year accolade, he joined Barcelona.

He had a season at fellow Spanish club Valencia in 1997 before returning home and signing with Flamengo.

Romario will be best remembered for his performances in the 1994 World Cup, where he was named player of the tournament. Goals against Russia, Cameroon, Sweden, Holland, Sweden again and a penalty in the final against Italy reflected a dominance not seen from a lone Brazilian forward since Pele. ⚽

Kit Galer writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.



Pele dominated the world stage for 12 years, and is still regarded as the greatest player who ever lived.



BEST of the *Best*



Fresh-faced:
A young Pele first strutted his stuff at the 1958 World Cup finals.

BRASIL IS, QUITE SIMPLY, THE excitement machine of international soccer, and has been since its recovery from what was seen by its soccer-mad population as a national disaster — being beaten at home by South American rival Uruguay in the 1950 World Cup final.

It took eight long years to finally erase the bitter memories of that stunning defeat. It may not have happened by 1958 in Sweden had it not been for the emergence of a supremely talented 17-year-old known as Pele, who was to dominate the world stage for the next 12 years and is still regarded as the greatest player who ever lived.

Brazil has played in a record six World Cup finals, tasting victory four times.

Re-living some of the greatest moments in Brazil's storied soccer history.

By **Kit Galer**

Two of its four wins were dominated by the magical skills of the man known as "The Black Pearl".

The history of Brazil's greatest triumphs stretches back some 41 years to the 1958 World Cup finals.

1958 A Star Is Born

Drawn against Wales in a quarter-final of the 1958 World Cup finals, Brazil struggled for an hour before a stunning goal from Pele — rumored to be playing largely because of pressure from other team members for his inclusion — put Brazil into the semi-finals against France.

In Just Fontaine (13 goals) and Raymond Kopa, the French had the men ultimately to emerge as the tournament's top scorer and best player. But clearly, no-one had told Pele of their reputation because he quite simply tore them to shreds, scoring a hat-trick in a 5-2 demolition.

The semi-final rout made headlines round the world, and experts suggested that Sweden might be in for a similar

drubbing in the final. In fact, it was to be identical — another 5–2 Brazil romp.

Tight control created two stunning goals from Pele, two more from his forward partner Vava, and one from winger Mario Zagallo in a mesmerising performance by a great team.

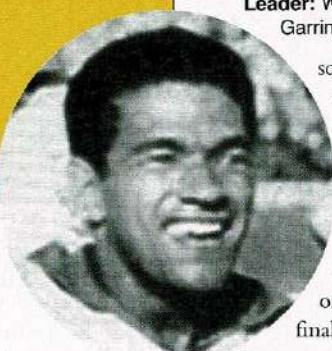
1958 WORLD CUP FINAL:

BRAZIL 5 SWEDEN 2

Scorers: Brazil — Vava (2), Pele (2), Zagallo; Sweden — Liedholm, Simonsson.

Brazil team:

Gilmar (Corinthians)
Djalma Santos (Portuguesa)
Nilton Santos (Botafogo)
Bellini (Vasco da Gama)
Zito (Santos)
Orlando (Vasco da Gama)
Didi (Botafogo)
Garrincha (Botafogo)
Vava (Vasco da Gama)
Pele (Santos)
Zagallo (Flamengo)



1962 Garrincha steps up

'No Pele, no Brazil' was a general perception by the time the World Cup circus landed in Chile in 1962. Brazil was virtually unstoppable if the Santos magician was in the line-up, but sides were seen to have a chance against Brazil if Pele was not out there.

After scoring in the opening 2–0 group win against Mexico, Pele pulled a muscle 10 minutes into the second match against Czechoslovakia, a 0–0 draw, and would play no further part in the tournament.

In a time of perceived crisis, it was the turn of diminutive winger Garrincha to come to the fore. Often regarded as a "luxury" player because his dribbling skills, though brilliant, could disrupt Brazilian forward thrusts, Garrincha adapted his game and took on a more direct role to compensate for the loss of Pele.

Spain was beaten 2–1, and Garrincha

1962 WORLD CUP FINAL: BRAZIL 3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1

Scorers: Brazil — Amarildo, Zito, Vava. Czechoslovakia — Masopust.

Brazil team:

Gilmar (Santos)
Djalma Santos (Palmeiras)
Mauro (Santos)
Zozimo (Bangú)
Nilton Santos (Botafogo)
Zito (Santos)
Didi (Botafogo)
Garrincha (Botafogo)
Vava (Palmeiras)
Amarildo (Botafogo)
Zagallo (Botafogo)

Leader: With Pele sidelined in 1962, Garrincha came to the fore.

scored twice as England was beaten 3–1. The semi-final saw host Chile crushed 4–2, with Garrincha and Vava each scoring twice, and final opponent Czechoslovakia was blown away 3–1 in one of the great World Cup final mis-matches.

1970 The best yet

Opponents found a way to combat Pele in England in the 1966 World Cup — every time he went near the ball, they kicked him. The result was an early exit for the great man and the failure of Brazil to qualify for the last 16.

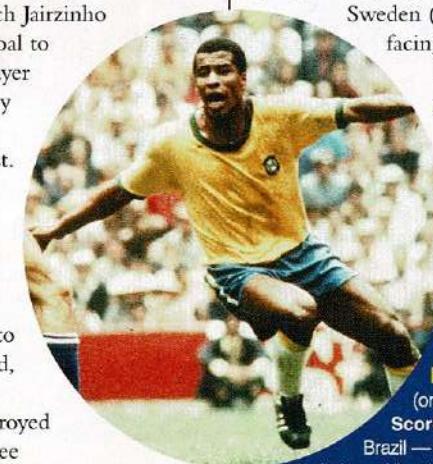
Four years later in Mexico, Pele, now 29 and indisputably the greatest player in the world, delivered his finest performance. Joining him were two stunning talents, free kick specialist Roberto Rivelino and explosive right winger Jairzinho.

Brazil showed it meant business with a 4–1 thrashing of Czechoslovakia in its opening match, and followed this with a 1–0 defeat of World Cup holder England. Jairzinho had scored three goals in the

two games, and added another in a 3–2 win against Romania, one more in a 4–2 defeat of Peru, and yet another in a 3–1 semi-final defeat of Uruguay.

The final, in which Jairzinho netted his seventh goal to become the only player ever to score in every match, was Brazilian soccer at its very best.

Pele put Brazil ahead with a lightning strike, his fourth goal of the tournament. After Inter Milan's Roberto Boninsegna equalised, Brazil stepped up a gear and simply destroyed the Azzurri with three more goals.



1970 WORLD CUP FINAL:

BRAZIL 4 ITALY 1

Scorers: Brazil — Pele, Gerson, Jairzinho, Carlos Alberto. Italy — Boninsegna.

Brazil team:

Felix (Fluminense)
Carlos Alberto (Santos)
Brito (Vasco da Gama)
Piazza (Cruzeiro)
Everaldo (Gremio)
Clodoaldo (Santos)
Gerson (Sao Paulo)
Jairzinho (Botafogo)
Tostao (Cruzeiro)
Pele (Santos)
Rivelino (Corinthians)

that Brazil emerged from Pele's shadow.

Brazil swept through to the final with victories against Russia (2–0), Cameroon (3–0), USA (1–0), Holland (3–2) and Sweden (1–0) to find itself facing Italy in the decider.

But the goals dried up in the final, and with the scores still 0–0 after extra-time,

Unstoppable:
Jairzinho simply sizzled in 1970.

1994 WORLD CUP FINAL: BRAZIL 3 ITALY 2

(on penalties).

Scorers:
Brazil — Romario, Branco, Dunga.
Italy — Albertini, Evani.

Brazil team:

Taffarel (Reggiana)
Jorginho (Bayern Munich)
Alcides (AS Roma)
Marcio Santos (Bordeaux)
Branco (Fluminense)
Mauro Silva (Deportivo La Coruna)
Mazinho (Palmeiras)
Dunga (VfB Stuttgart)
Zinho (Palmeiras)
Romario (Barcelona)
Bebe (Deportivo La Coruna)
Substitutes: Cafu (Sao Paulo) for Jorginho,
Viola (Corinthians) for Zinho.

the game was decided on penalties.

After a miss from each team, Albertini put Italy ahead before Romario equalised. Evani and Branco's goals made it 2–2. Then Taffarel made a blinding save, and Dunga scored to put Brazil 3–2 ahead.

Up stepped Roberto Baggio, Italy's "Golden Ponytail". He took aim — and blasted over the bar. Brazil had won the Cup for a record fourth time.

Kit Galer writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.



Are you Brazil nuts?



1 Who is Brazil's most capped player?

2 In what position did he play?

3 What color shirts did Brazil wear in the 1958 World Cup final in Sweden?

4 Which West German centre forward's name was chosen as a nickname by a talented Brazilian World Cup striker of the 1980s?

5 Which famous Brazilian is the only player with three World Cup winners' Medals?

6 Who is the only player to score in every match in one World Cup finals tournament?

7 And what year was that?

So you think you know it all about the greatest soccer-playing nation the world has ever seen?

Well, here's your chance to test your knowledge about the Brazilian team, Selecao Brasileira, and the many magical players who have pulled on the famous yellow shirt. If you are truly a Brazil nut, you'll know all of these answers. If you need some help, check the stories elsewhere in your program.

8 Star Brazil defender Roberto Carlos plays for the same Spanish club as 1950s and '60s legend Didi. Which club?

9 Which English club has recently re-signed Juninho?

10 Which former Brazilian captain, one of Brazil's greats, is a brother of 1994 World Cup forward Rai?

11 Who beat Brazil to win the 1950 World Cup final?

12 Where was the final played?

13 Which future Brazil manager played alongside Pele in the 1958 World Cup final?

14 Which Spanish club did Ronaldo play for before joining Inter Milan?

15 Who is the only player, a Brazilian, to score in successive World Cup finals?

16 Leonardo (pictured above) played for the FIFA World Stars in Sydney earlier this year. Where does he play his club soccer?



Former address: Ronaldo, seen here for Inter Milan, played in Spain with which club?

17 Which country did Brazil beat in the final of this year's Copa America in Paraguay?

18 Which two players shared six goals when Brazil beat Australia 6-0 in the 1997 Confederations Cup final?

19 Which Australian player was sent off in that match?

20 Who beat Brazil in this year's Confederations Cup final?

21 Whose full name is Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima?

22 Brazil played a friendly this year as part of which club's centenary celebrations?

23 Which star Brazilian striker currently plays for Barcelona?

24 Santos is a famous Brazilian club, but which two defenders of that name played in the 1954, '58 and '62 World Cups?

25 What colors did Brazil wear prior to its 1950 World Cup final defeat?

26 Which young Brazilian international defender joined Arsenal this year?

27 Brazil first won the World Cup in 1958. Who did it beat in the final?

28 Which free kick specialist, initials R.R., played in the 1974, '78 and '82 World Cups and was capped 93 times for Brazil?

29 Who scored Brazil's first goal of the 1998 World Cup tournament in France?

30 Which English goalkeeper pulled off a miracle save to deny Pele a certain goal in the England/Brazil World Cup match in Chile in 1970?

31 Who scored the only goal in that match?

32 Whose penalty miss decided the 1994 World Cup final shootout?

33 Which club was Brazilian coach Wanderley Luxemburgo in charge of prior to taking over the national team?

34 Which Japanese club did former Brazil captain Zico play for?

35 Edmundo played alongside Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta for which Italian club?

36 What position does Pele hold in the Brazilian government?

37 How big was the official crowd which witnessed the 1950 World Cup final in Rio's new Maracana Stadium?

38 Officials were so stunned when Brazil lost, they forgot something very important. What was it?

39 Which young Brazilian winger joined Real Betis for a then-world record \$42 million last year?

40 Who was the Brazilian captain who retired after the 1998 World Cup?

41 Who was left out so Ronaldo could play in the 1998 World Cup final side?

42 Who is president of Brazil's 2006 World Cup Organising Committee?

43 Which famous English amateur club's 1910 Brazil tour inspired the formation of one of Brazil's greatest clubs?

44 In which cities do Botafogo and Palmeiras play?

45 Who coached Brazil to victory in the 1994 World Cup?

46 Which Brazil team finished fourth in the Atlanta Olympics?

47 Which countries do Brazil-born Wagner Lopez and Luis Oliveira now play for?

48 How old was Pele when he won his first World Cup winners' medal?

49 Who scored a hat-trick in Brazil's 4-2 win in the friendly international against Argentina in September?

50 Brazil beat Australia 6-0 in the 1997 Confederations Cup final. What was the score in the round-robin match between the two teams? ⚽



Experience:
Brazil's most
capped player
— can you
name him?

1. Querido Taffarel. 101 caps. 2. Goalkeeper. 3. Blue. 4. Muller. 5. Pele. 6. Jarizinho. 7. 1970. 8. Real Madrid.
9. Middlefielder/striker. 10. Soccerista. 11. Uruguay. 12. Maracana Stadium. Rio. 13. Mario Zagallo. 14. Barcelona.
15. Vava in 1958 and 62. 16. AC Milan. 17. Uruguay. 18. Ronaldinho. 19. Brazil.
20. Mexico. 21. Ronaldo. 22. Barcelona. 23. Brazil. 24. Diploma Santos and Nilton Santos. 25. All time with
blue collar and out. 26. St. Mirin. 27. Sweden. 28. Roberto Baggio. 33. Corinthians. 34. Kashima Antlers. 35.
36. Gordan Banks. 31. Jarizinho. 32. Lilys. 37. Sports Minister. 38. To present Uruguayan with the trophy. 39. Dennis Bergkamp. 40. Delisio.
Dunga. 41. Edmundo. 42. Zico. 43. The Corinthians. 44. Rio de Janeiro. 45. Charles Alberto Parreira.
46. Women's national team. 47. Japan. Belgium. 48. 17. 49. Ricardo. 50. O-O.

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SYDNEY

ANSETT AUSTRALIA TEST

Australia v India

Sunday, January 2 – Thurs, January 6.

CARLTON & UNITED SERIES

Australia v India D/N. Fri, January 14.

Australia v Pakistan D/N. Wed, January 19.

2nd FINAL D/N. Fri, February 4.

3rd FINAL D/N if required. Sun, February 6.



cricket. Make sure you're there to cheer the Aussies on.

MELBOURNE

ANSETT AUSTRALIA BOXING DAY TEST

Australia v India

Sunday, December 26 – Thurs, December 30.

CARLTON & UNITED SERIES

Australia v India D/N. Wed, January 12.

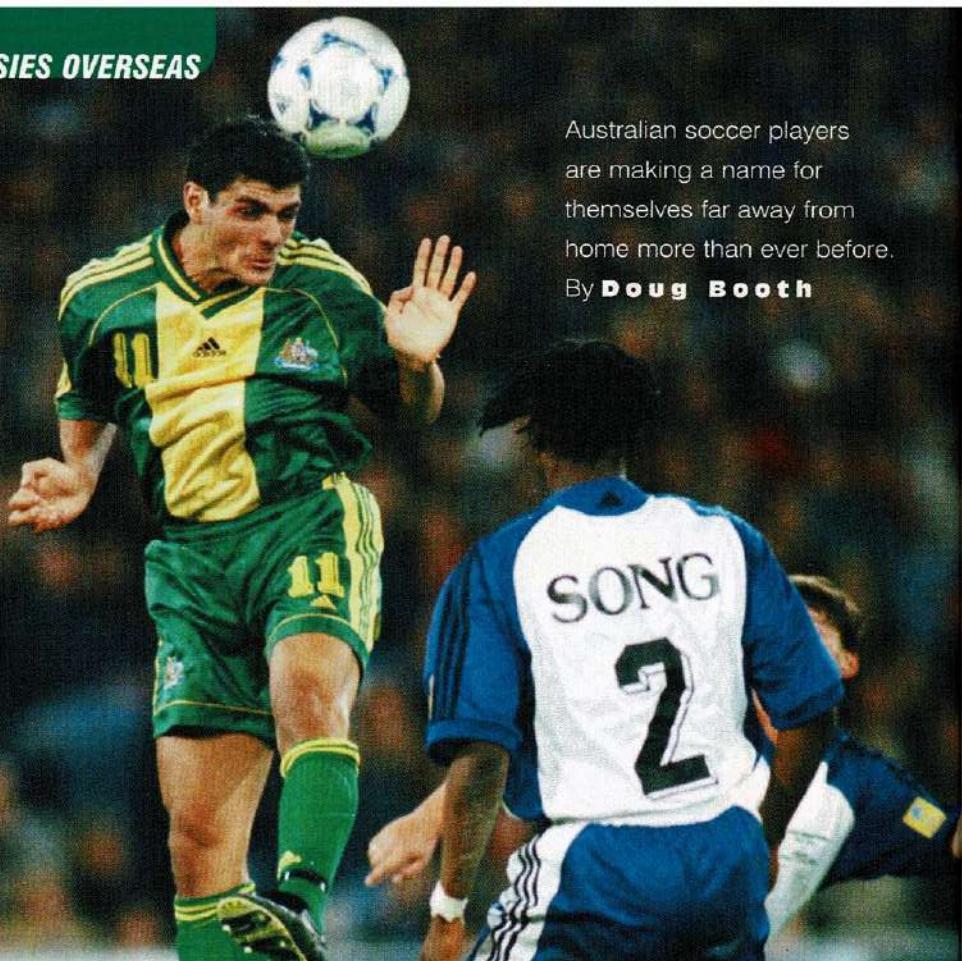
Australia v Pakistan. Sun, January 16.

Australia v Pakistan D/N. Sun, January 23.

1st FINAL D/N. Wed, February 2.

Tickets for all games are on sale now, so book early. For Sydney matches, call Ticketek on (02) 9266 4800. For Melbourne matches, call Ticketmaster on 13 61 22.





Australian soccer players are making a name for themselves far away from home more than ever before.

By Doug Booth

Aussie exports

IT'S HARD TO FORGET THE INFAMOUS quote by Craig Johnston, the former Liverpool midfielder, when he was at the height of his career. In an interview with *60 Minutes*, Johnston once said: "Playing soccer for Australia would be like surfing for England".

How times have changed. Back then, Johnston was one of a handful of Aussies making their mark in Europe. Today, the

continent — in particular England — has been swamped with more than 100 ex-pats all keen to make their fame and fortune in the big-time.

John Aloisi is one such Aussie. Although a calf injury in September stopped him in his tracks, the 23-year-old striker is determined to bounce back with perennial English Premier League struggler Coventry City.

Using his head: Socceroo John Aloisi is displaying his smarts and skills overseas.

Aloisi, who scored five goals in 16 appearances for the Sky Blues after his \$1.6 million signing from Portsmouth last season, has had to fight hard to establish himself in the first team. But with Darren Huckerby leaving for Leeds United and Noel Whelan being injured, he thought he had at last managed it until his untimely injury.

Aloisi, who relished the chance to play alongside Irishman Robbie Keane, scored against both Mark Bosnich's Manchester United and Harry Kewell's Leeds in September. His injury could not have come at a worse time.

"This is so frustrating because I've been patient and waited for my chance," he says.

"I was so keen to go on a run of games and to keep on scoring. I was combining well with Keane and it's disappointing that it can't continue for now."

Another young Aussie whose potential has been curtailed through injury is Crystal Palace midfielder Nick Rizzo. A vicious tackle towards the end of last season sidelined him for three-and-a-half months with medial ligament problems, effectively ending his chances of representing Australia at the World Under-20 Youth Championships.

Australia's 3-0 series win against Brazil in March 1998 was a personal highlight

for the Sydney Olympic junior. Most recently, Rizzo was part of Raul Blanco's 19-man squad which based itself in London for two weeks as part of a European camp, and played games against Southampton and Kuwait, highlighting his talents with a goal against the latter.

Rizzo says the chance to get together with his national teammates was

important ahead of the Sydney Olympics.

"We need to play as many games together as possible. I haven't been getting that much time on the field with Crystal Palace, so it was great to get the two games in," he says.

"It was also pretty important to get together in Europe somewhere. We all love coming to Australia, but it's also a crucial time for our clubs, and it's difficult to take too much time off."

Rizzo is committed to playing for Australia at the Olympics.

"I will be doing everything in my power to make sure I'm part of it. I'm from

Sydney, so it would be an unbelievable experience to play in front of my home crowd," he says.

"I honestly think we're going to do well, but we have to make sure that the stadiums are full. It helps when there are thousands and thousands of Australians there cheering you on."

Doug Booth writes for the Herald Sun newspaper in Melbourne.

FACT FILE **The Top 20**

Here's the cream of the crop of all of the Aussies currently playing soccer overseas.

- Paul Agostino** (1860 Munich)
- John Aloisi** (Coventry City)
- Mark Bosnich** (Manchester United)
- Steve Corica** (Wolverhampton)
- John Filan** (Blackburn Rovers)
- Hayden Foxe** (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)
- Richard Johnson** (Watford)
- Zeljko Kalac** (Roda JC Kerkrade)
- Harry Kewell** (Leeds United)
- Stan Lazaridis** (Birmingham City)
- Craig Moore** (Glasgow Rangers)
- Kevin Muscat** (Wolverhampton)
- Paul Okon** (Fiorentina)
- Tony Popovic** (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)
- Nick Rizzo** (Crystal Palace)
- Mark Schwarzer** (Middlesbrough)
- Josip Skoko** (Hajduk Split)
- Tony Vidmar** (Glasgow Rangers)
- Mark Viduka** (Glasgow Celtic)
- Ned Zelic** (1860 Munich)

Turn to pages 70-71 for a complete list of overseas-based Australians.

All abroad

More than 100 Australians are currently plying their trade for overseas soccer clubs.

Here's the full list, who they play for, and where they play:

Player	Position	Club	Division (Tier)	Country
Agostino, Paul	Striker	1860 Munich	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
Allsop, Danny	Striker	Manchester City	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Aloisi, John	Striker	Coventry City	Premier League (1)	England
Bacak, Josip	Striker	Vitesse Arnhem	KPN Telecompetitie (1)	Holland
Baser, Tansel	Defender	Trabzonspor	1.Lig (1)	Turkey
Beattie, Damien	Goalkeeper	Ilkeston Town	Dr. Martens Prem. Div. (Non-League)	England
Bernal, Andrew	Defender	Reading	Nationwide Division Two (3)	England
Blake, Ben	Defender	Gombak United	S-League (1)	Singapore
Bosnich, Mark	Goalkeeper	Manchester United	Premier League (1)	England
Bothwell, Brian	Midfielder	Brunei	Premier One (1)	Malaysia
Brinias, Dimitri	Goalkeeper	Bournemouth	Youth	England
Bozinoski, Vlado	Midfielder	Home United	S-League (1)	Singapore
Brady, Jon	Midfielder	Rushden & Diamonds	Conference League (Non-League)	England
Bresciano, Marco	Midfielder	Empoli	Serie B (2)	Italy
Bustos, Robert	Midfielder	Neuva Chicago	Nacional B (2)	Argentina
Candsell-Sheriff, Shane	Defender	Leeds United	Youth	England
Cervinski, David	Defender	Gombak United	S-League (1)	Singapore
Corica, Steve	Midfielder	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Covic, Ante	Goalkeeper	PAOK Salonika	Division A (1)	Greece
Coyne, Chris	Defender	West Ham United	Premier League (1)	England
Culina, Jason	Midfielder	Ajax Amsterdam	KPN Telecompetitie (1)	Holland
Damianos, Bill	Midfielder	Skoda Xanthi	Division A (1)	Greece
Di Iorio, Joey	Striker	Werder Bremen	Youth	Germany
Duric, Alex	Striker	Tanjong Pagar United	S-League (1)	Singapore
Edds, Gareth	Defender	Nottingham Forest	Youth	England
Ferrante, Michael	Defender	West Ham United	Youth	England
Filan, John	Goalkeeper	Blackburn Rovers	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Foster, Craig	Midfielder	Crystal Palace	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Foxe, Hayden	Defender	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	J-League (1)	Japan
Garcia, Richard	Striker	West Ham United	Youth	England
Gillman, Lee	Striker	Norwich City	Youth	England
Gonzales, Carlos	Midfielder	Ourense	Segunda B (3)	Spain
Grella, Vince	Midfielder	Empoli	Serie B (2)	Italy
Grdic, Tony	Defender	Hajduk Split	1.HNL (1)	Croatia
Groves, Brad	Midfielder	Leeds United	Youth	England
Guyett, Scott	Def/Midfielder	Southport	Conference League (Non-League)	England
Hagias, Greg	Striker	Panahaiki	Division A (1)	Greece
Harries, Paul	Striker	Carlisle United	Nationwide Division Three (4)	England
Hews, Chay	Midfielder	Bellmare Hiratsuka	J-League (1)	Japan
Howells, Lee	Midfielder	Cheltenham Town	Nationwide Division Three (4)	England
Hunter, Matthew	Striker	Leeds United	Youth	England
Ithier, Doug	Defender	Marine Castle United	S-League (1)	Singapore
Johnson, Richard	Midfielder	Watford	Premier League (1)	England
Jones, Brad	Goalkeeper	Middlesbrough	Youth	England
Juric, Frank	Goalkeeper	Bayer Leverkusen	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
Kalac, Zeljko	Goalkeeper	Roda JC Kerkrade	KPN Telecompetitie (1)	Holland
Kearton, Jason	Goalkeeper	Crewe Alexandra	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Kewell, Harry	Midfield/Striker	Leeds United	Premier League (1)	England
Kindler, Lorenz	Defender	Cercle Brugge	Tweede Klasse (2)	Belgium
Knight, Jason	Midfielder	Hinckley United	Dr Martens Mid. Div. (Non-League)	England

Player	Position	Club	Division (Tier)	Country
Kulcsar, George	Midfielder	Queens Park Rangers	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Laurie, Steve	Defender	West Ham United	Youth	England
Laybutt, Stephen	Defender	Bellmare Hiratsuka	J-League (1)	Japan
Lazaridis, Stan	Def/Midfielder	Birmingham City	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Lettieri, Fabian	Striker	Werder Bremen	Youth	Germany
Lovell, Stuart	Mid/Striker	Hibernian	Premier League (1)	Scotland
Maisano, Marco	Midfielder	EVV Eindhoven	Toto Divisie (2)	Holland
Marrapodi, Joe	Defender	Tampines Rovers	S-League (1)	Singapore
Marusic, Kresimir	Midfielder	Lommel Eerste	Klasse (1)	Belgium
Mautone, Steve	Goalkeeper	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Martin, Ian	Goalkeeper	Newcastle United	Youth	England
McDermott, Andrew	Defender	West Bromwich Albion	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Moore, Craig	Defender	Glasgow Rangers	Premier League (1)	Scotland
Murphy, Shaun	Defender	Sheffield United	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Muscat, Kevin	Defender	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Neill, Lucas	Defender	Millwall	Nationwide Division Two (3)	England
O'Donnell, Scott	Defender	Tampines Rovers	S-League (1)	Singapore
Okon, Paul	Def/Midfielder	Fiorentina	Serie A (1)	Italy
Palomino, Rodrigo	Striker	Francs Borains	Division IIIA (3)	Belgium
Pettersson, Andy	Goalkeeper	Portsmouth	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Popovic, Tony	Defender	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	J-League (1)	Japan
Rizzo, Nick	Midfielder	Crystal Palace	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Robertson, Mark	Defender	Burnley	Nationwide Division Two (3)	England
Salapasidis, Kosta	Mid/Striker	Compostela	Segunda A (2)	Spain
SajRynes, Mike	Midfielder	SFC Opava	Gambrinus Liga (1)	Czech Rep.
Schwarzer, Mark	Goalkeeper	Middlesbrough	Premier League (1)	England
Scope, Tynan	Goalkeeper	Bristol City	Nationwide Division Two (3)	England
Sekulic, Tony	Defender	Mainz	2 Liga (2)	Germany
Simunic, Josip	Defender	Hamburg	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
Siveski, Pece	Midfielder	Pelister	Vardar Skopje (1)	Macedonia
Skoko, Ante	Defender	Makarska	3.HNL (3)	Croatia
Skoko, Josip	Midfielder	Hajduk Split	1.HNL (1)	Croatia
Spiteri, Joe	Striker	Lierse	Erste Klasse (1)	Belgium
Stewart, Darren	Defender	Balestier Central	S-League (1)	Singapore
Talay, Ufuk	Midfielder	Galatasaray	1.Lig (1)	Turkey
Talia, Frank	Goalkeeper	Swindon Town	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Tapai, Ernie	Mid/Striker	Home United	S-League (1)	Singapore
Tiatto, Danny	Defender	Manchester City	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Tohouroglou, Kyriakos	Goalkeeper	Olympiakos	Division A (1)	Greece
Tsirtsakis, Arthur	Def/Midfielder	Ialykos Rhodes	Division B (2)	Greece
Van Blerk, Jason	Defender	West Bromwich Albion	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
Vidmar, Tony	Defender	Glasgow Rangers	Premier League (1)	Scotland
Viduka, Mark	Striker	Glasgow Celtic	Premier League (1)	Scotland
Vlahos, Andy	Midfielder	Panathinaikos	Division A (1)	Greece
Webster, Adrian	Midfielder	Colchester United	Nationwide Division Two (3)	England
Widera, Sean	Mid/Striker	Hibernian	Premier League (1)	Scotland
Wilkinson, Barry	Defender	Dumbarton	League Division Three (4)	Scotland
Wilshire, Luke	Midfielder	Middlesbrough	Youth	England
Zdrilic, David	Striker	SSV Ulm (Loan)	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
Zelic, Ned	Def/Midfielder	1860 Munich	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
Zois, Peter	Goalkeeper	NAC Breda	Toto Divisie (2)	Holland

Notes: Michael Petkovic is reported to have signed a contract with French first division club, Strasbourg. Joe Didulica has signed with Ajax Amsterdam in Holland. The status of the following players is being confirmed: Ross Aloisi (Lorient, France), Nick Lazarevski (Chiasso, Switzerland), David Oldfield (Stoke City, England), Joe Palatsides (Olympiakos Volou, Greece), Marcelo Pena (Santiago Morning, Chile). *List courtesy of Soccer Australia and correct at time of printing.*

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IF THE WORD "BOOM" HAD ANOTHER meaning in your standard dictionary, you would see the words "Soccer in Australia" next to it.

The cream of the current generation of Australian soccer player is currently on show as the LG Socceroos take on Brazil in Sydney and Melbourne.

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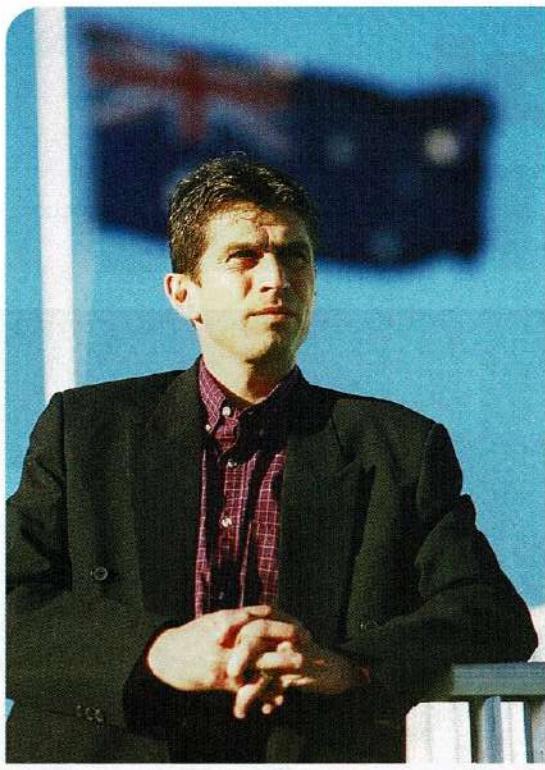
LG Socceroo coach Frank Farina and

Fanatical: Passionate local supporters, such as those who follow the Perth Glory, are flocking to the NSL.

his assistant Graham Arnold have both been there and done that ... well, almost.

The only thing that's eluded the two former Australian strikers is that coveted place at a World Cup, but both of the new boys feel they've been given a "second chance" — and they fully intend to capitalise on it, albeit in a different role.

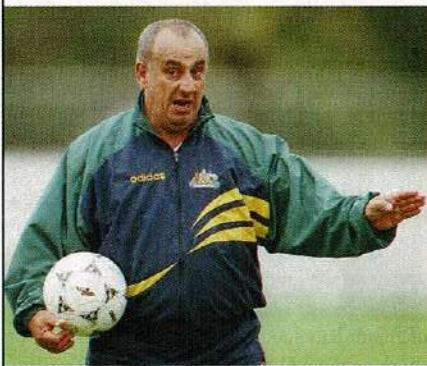
LG Electronics have certainly recognized soccer's future potential in this country, coming on board as a major



The only thing that's eluded Farina and Arnold is that coveted place at a World Cup, but both of the new boys feel they've been given a "second chance" — and they fully intend to capitalize on it, albeit in a different role.

all involved in Olympic football, with Australia's first chance in over a year to see the Olyroos live in action coming in early January 2000 when a four team tournament is scheduled for Sydney.

The talent of the future is also on display in New Zealand, with the World Under-17 World Championship currently underway, and Australia represented by the LG Joeys. A successful lead-up over the last 12 months points to many future LG Socceroos making their mark this month.



If all of this isn't enough to convince you that Australian Soccer is here, take a look at the National Soccer League.

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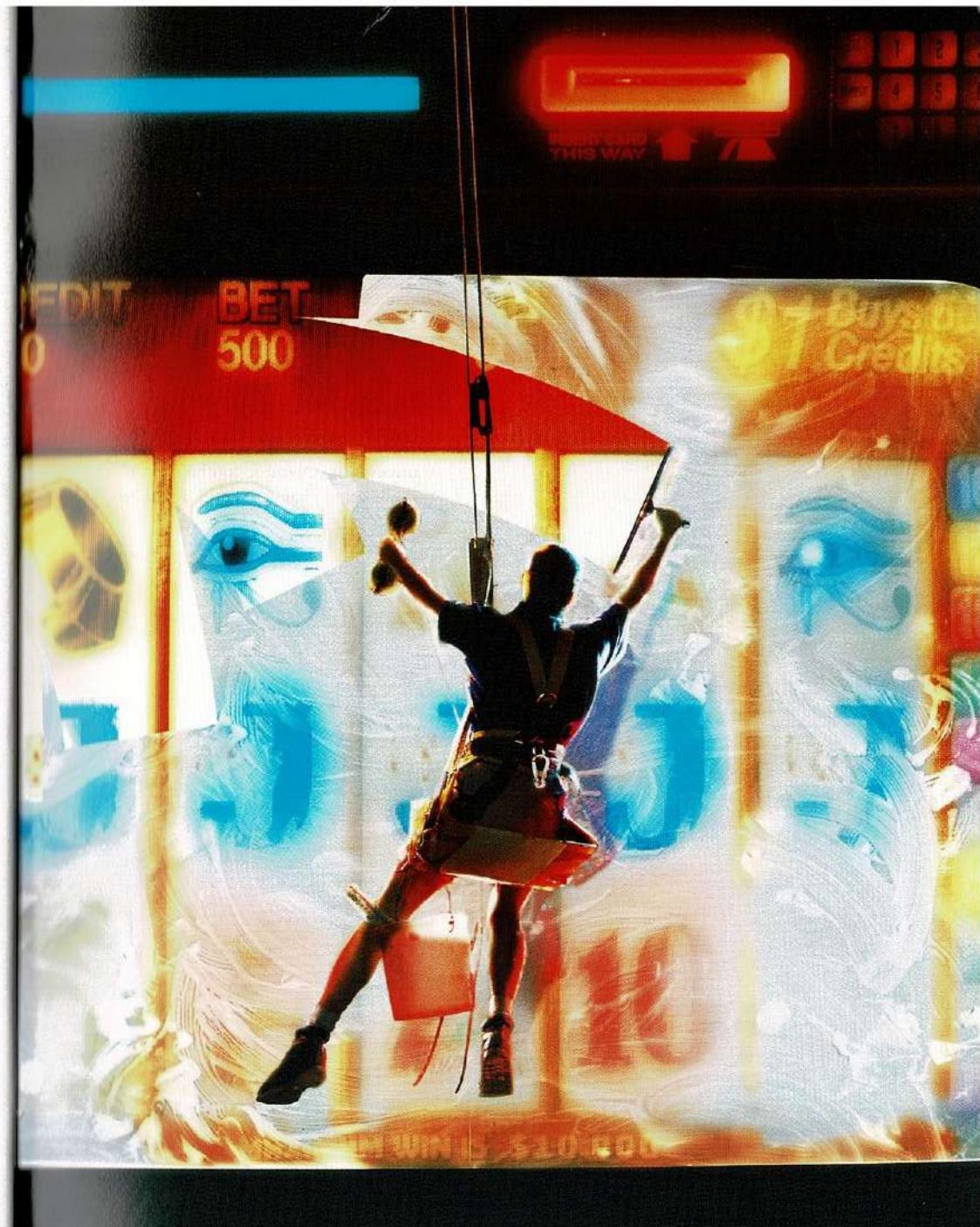
sponsor and pouring their valuable resources behind all four of the Australian National Mens Teams — the LG Socceroos, the LG Under-23s, the LG Young Socceroos and the LG Joeys.

While today's talent is on show against Brazil, the best of tomorrow's talent is currently scattered around the globe.

Olympic coach Raul Blanco and his 20-man Olyroo Squad is currently in camp in Tunisia as preparations continue toward the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Blanco has an envious, yet tough task ahead of him — a squad of currently around 30 players needs to be cut down to 18 by mid-next year.

The next 11 months will be crucial for





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